



Glossary for patient stories

Refeeding syndrome - a syndrome consisting of metabolic disturbances that occur as a result of reinstatement of nutrition to patients who are starved, severely malnourished or metabolically stressed due to severe illness.

Aseptic Non Touch Technique (ANTT®) - the standard intravenous technique used for the accessing of all venous access devices.

septic shock - occurs when blood pressure drops significantly. This can lead to respiratory, heart, or organ failure and death. This is the results of severe **sepsis**, which occurs when infection disrupts blood flow to the brain or kidneys, leading to organ failure. Blood clots cause gangrene (tissue death) in the arms, legs, fingers, and toes.

Coeliac disease – a disease in which the small intestine is hypersensitive to gluten, leading to difficulty in digesting and absorbing nutrients from food.

Immunosuppression – a partial or complete suppression of the immune response of an individual. Often induced to aid survival of organs after transplantation.

NG tube – naso gastric tube inserted into the nose and passed down into the stomach to deliver nutrition into the stomach (bypassing the oral route) or for the drainage (aspiration) of stomach contents.

NJ tube - naso jejunal tube inserted into the nose and passed down into the Jejunum (part of the small intestine) to deliver nutrition into the intestine (bypassing the stomach).

PEG – percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy, a tube inserted through the abdominal wall into the stomach. The tube is used to deliver nutrition into the stomach and/or drain the stomach of gastric contents.

PEG-J – percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy with jejunal adaptor, a tube inserted through the abdominal wall into the stomach, with a separate internal adaptor which is passed through the stomach into the jejunum. The tube is used to deliver nutrition into the intestine, bypassing the stomach. The portion in the stomach can be used to vent or aspirate stomach contents.

Ehler-Danlos syndrome – a rare inherited genetic condition of the connective tissues, characterised by increased flexibility and affecting multiple systems and organs of the body, such as the skin, urinary system, etc.

Small bowel dysmotility – a condition in which the muscle of the intestine become impaired and change in speed, strength and co-ordination.

Myenteric plexitis – the impairment of the myenteric plexus, the major nerve supply of the gastrointestinal tract controlling intestinal motility.

Enteric neuropathy – a degenerative neuromuscular condition of the digestive system, simply put the guy stoop working.

Malnutrition – lack of appropriate nutrition, caused by not having enough to eat, not eating enough of the right foods, inability to absorb nutrition from foods or increased needs above what can be achieved through food.

PICC line – a peripherally inserted central venous catheter used to administer medication and/or parenteral nutrition, often for short term use.

Hickman line – a brand of central venous catheter used for the long term administration of intravenous medication and/or parenteral nutrition, inserted into the subclavian vein (under the collar bone) and tracked to the heart.

Type 3 Intestinal Failure – a condition characterised by a complete failure of the intestine.

TPN – total parenteral nutrition.

Hypermobility – an abnormal or excessive movement, especially motility of all or part of the gastrointestinal tract.

Acidotic – a condition where the pH of the blood becomes too acidic for normal biological functions.

Hypoglycaemic – a condition in which the blood glucose level is too low for normal biological functions.

Dehydration – an inadequate level of hydration in the body.

HDU – high dependency unit.

Peristaltic movement – the movement of the muscles, primarily the digestive tract, but also in other hollow tubes of the body that occurs in progressive wavelike contractions.

Embolism – a partial or total blockage of a blood vessel caused by a blood clot, fat globule, air, other gas or foreign body.

Crohn's Disease – an inflammatory condition affecting the digestion tract.

Reflux disease – digestive disorder that affects the lower oesophageal sphincter causing reflux of stomach contents into the oesophagus.

Roux-en-y bypass – a surgical procedure where the stomach is made smaller and a portion of the small intestine is bypassed.

Necrosis – when body cells die in living tissue, which may release harmful chemicals damaging other tissues.

Abscess – a swollen area within body tissues containing an accumulation of pus

MRSA – methicillin-resistant staphylococcus. An infection which is unresponsive to anti-biotics, which can lead to life threatening conditions.

Klebsiella – a type of bacteria.

Opiates – a drug derived from or related to opium, used in pain management.

Laparotomy – a surgical incision into the abdominal cavity for diagnosis or in preparation for major surgery

Strictures – restriction of the bowel.

Volvulus – an obstruction due to twisting of the stomach or intestine.