

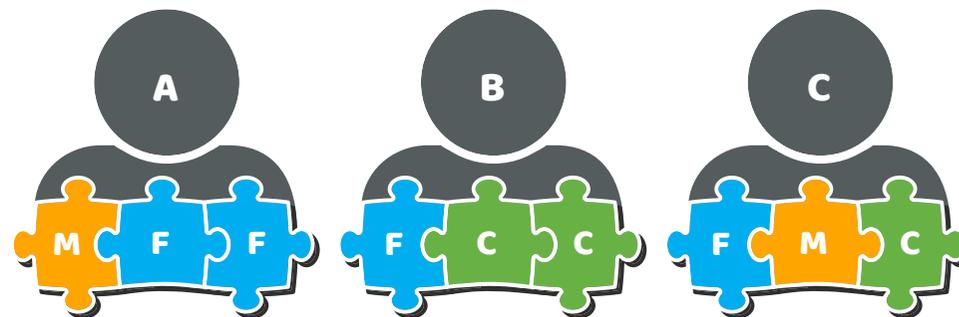


# SO WHAT IS PARENTERAL NUTRITION (PN)?

- Parenteral therapy means that it goes directly into the bloodstream.
- Parenteral nutrition, or intravenous feeding, is a method of getting nutrition into the body through the veins directly into the bloodstream.
- Parenteral nutrition delivers nutrients such as sugar (glucose), protein building blocks (amino acids), fats (as triglycerides), salts (such as sodium, potassium), vitamins and trace elements to the body. These are all dissolved in sterile water. These nutrients are vital in maintaining energy, hydration, and strength levels. Some people only need to infuse certain types of nutrients intravenously.
- In the homecare setting a home parenteral nutrition (HPN) service is the term for the service used to support patients requiring intravenous nutrition and/or fluid therapy.

**Every individual is unique.** The parenteral nutrition prescription will be specific to the patient.

- Individuals requiring home parenteral nutrition therapy may have their needs met using one or a variety of products. These can include i.v. fluid bags, multi-chamber nutrition bags or compounded nutrition bags. The combination will be chosen to meet the individuals unique needs and may change over time (for more information see Myth 2).
- Some patients may need nutrition and not much fluid and others may need fluid and not many calories. Some patients may only need fluids and electrolytes.
- Some patients may have a lipid (fat) bag every day, some only a few times a week or none at all, this will depend on the nutrition needs of the individual and the prescribing preferences of the clinical team.
- Some ingredients or products are specifically made for children, but the processes for making PN is the same for adults and children.



F = Fluids - intravenous fluid and electrolyte bag  
M = Multi-chamber bag (MCB). 2CB - a dual-chamber bag with no lipid. 3CB - a triple-chamber bag with lipid  
C = Compounded bag - a PN bag made in a pharmacy clean room

OVER THE NEXT 4 DAYS WE WILL BE BUSTING SOME MYTHS AROUND PARENTERAL NUTRITION THERAPY

This material was developed in partnership with Baxter Healthcare Ltd.