

A close-up, black and white photograph of a hand with the index finger pointing towards a tablet computer screen. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a desk or office environment.

# Parenteral Nutrition Educational Resources at your Fingertips

## PN and the Role of BSNA



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The British Specialist Nutrition Association (BSNA) is the trade association in the UK which represents manufacturers of high-quality specialist nutritional and aseptically compounded products. As a trade association, we seek to act as the lead voice for people's access to infant nutrition, medical foods, enteral products, parenteral nutrition (PN) and parenteral medicines from infancy to older age. We do this by working with a wide variety of stakeholders to shape policy, ensure appropriate regulation and through providing educational opportunities and resources.

### Parenteral nutrition

PN is the provision of nutrition via the intravenous route. A patient may receive PN on either a short- or long-term basis if their gastrointestinal system is inaccessible or non-functioning and oral intake is inadequate or unsafe. A patient may also receive PN for other reasons, for example, as part of pre-operative care to improve post-operative outcomes.

BSNA represents the three main manufacturers of PN in the UK: Baxter, B. Braun and Fresenius Kabi. With our members, we work closely with organisations such as the British Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (BAPEN), the British Dietetic Association (BDA), Patients on Intravenous and Nasogastric Nutrition Treatment (PINNT), the National Nutrition Nurses Group (NNNG) and clinical experts to promote understanding of PN among healthcare professionals (HCPs) and raise awareness of best practice in patient care.

We also work with regulatory and legislative bodies such as the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to ensure that policy and regulation around the manufacture and use of PN maintains and promotes high standards within the sector.

BSNA recognises the existence of a gap in education and training opportunities on PN for current and future healthcare professionals. By providing opportunities for HCPs to understand, explore and appreciate the role of PN in the prevention and management of malnutrition, BSNA aims to contribute to appropriate, timely, and safe patient access to PN. This article will provide a brief history and overview of BSNA's PN educational activities.

## University education sessions

Since 2018, BSNA has been delivering PN education sessions to dietetic students at universities across England, and more recently expanding to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The sessions provide an overview of parenteral nutrition, including the indications of PN use, how to determine the nutritional requirements for patients on parenteral nutrition, understanding the content and constituents of parenteral nutrition, as well as providing an overview of how PN is prepared.

Although these sessions are currently targeted towards dietitians, we are looking to spread our reach to additional professions, such as nursing or pharmacy. If you know of any university or course which may benefit from an education session on parenteral nutrition, please contact BSNA.

## Parenteral nutrition webinars

### Dietitian webinar series

The success of the university education sessions highlighted a need and desire among dietitians with limited exposure to PN for more education opportunities. BSNA aimed to fulfil this need for qualified and practicing dietitians, and in 2021 hosted a three-part introductory webinar series on PN for dietitians.

These sessions provided an overview of the different routes of feeding and product types used and highlighted where PN sits within the nutrition support continuum. The series explored the indications for PN, as well as looking at the licensing and preparation of PN and the differences between standard and bespoke PN. It also provided an overview of how PN is administered, explored the monitoring of a patient on PN and reviewed potential complications associated with patients on PN.

The dietitian webinar series was well received by attendees and generated substantial interest with more than 600 registrations. Recordings are currently available for registrants to view on the BSNA website, and BSNA hopes to repeat this webinar series in the future.

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#### Parenteral Nutrition Webinar Series for Dietitians

The British Specialist Nutrition Association (BSNA) present a live three-part webinar series introducing parenteral nutrition to dietitians; what it is, why it is used, by whom, how and when.

Read here: <https://bsna.co.uk/webinars/2021/parenteral-nutrition-webinar-series-2>



### Nurses' webinar

Due to the success of the dietitian webinar series, and an overwhelming interest from nurses, BSNA developed a webinar series specifically aimed at meeting the needs of nurses. The NNNG was instrumental in the development of the content of this webinar series, of which they have awarded endorsement. The first and second sessions of the three-part series went live in May 2022 with the final session held in June 2022.

In addition to the general material covered in the dietetic series, this series aimed to address nursing concerns such as access points, management and monitoring of patients on PN, assessing patients for home PN, discharging home and the role of the homecare nurse in management of patients on home PN. Recordings of these webinars will be uploaded to the BSNA website following the sessions.

#### Understanding the Role of Parenteral Nutrition - Nursing from Hospital to Home

Wednesday 18 May, 25 May and 8 June 2022 @ 12:00 - 12:45

The British Specialist Nutrition Association (BSNA) present a live three-part webinar series, endorsed by the National Nurses Nutrition Group (NNNG), introducing parenteral nutrition to nurses and exploring the role of the nurse through a patient journey from diagnosis, to hospital care and finally home parenteral nutrition

Read here: [www.bsna.co.uk/webinars/2022/understanding-the-role-of-parenteral-nutrition-nursing-from-hospital-to-home](http://www.bsna.co.uk/webinars/2022/understanding-the-role-of-parenteral-nutrition-nursing-from-hospital-to-home)



### Nutrition in advanced cancer

BSNA has also hosted a more specific and targeted two-part webinar series in collaboration with the BDA Oncology Group on PN in advanced cancer. This webinar series discussed decision making, guidelines and the rationale of starting nutritional support in patients with advanced malignancy. It also looked at the practicalities of establishing PN in this patient cohort, discharge pathways and the decision to stop nutritional support. Both webinars in this series are available to view on the BSNA website.

#### Parenteral Nutrition in Advanced Cancer

Antje Teubner MD, MRCS (Ed) Associate Specialist, Intestinal Failure, explores the rationale, background and practicalities behind starting patients with advanced malignancy on nutrition support.

Read here: [www.bsna.co.uk/webinars/2021/parenteral-nutrition-in-advanced-cancer](http://www.bsna.co.uk/webinars/2021/parenteral-nutrition-in-advanced-cancer)



## Parenteral nutrition: ensuring high quality throughout preparation, supply and administration

The process of preparing PN is a complex one involving multiple, carefully controlled and regulated steps. These steps are essential to provide quality assurance of products during production, processing, delivery and administration.

To highlight the steps involved, BSNA created a video and accompanying information sheet which demonstrates the carefully controlled processes, from production to patient administration, required to ensure the maintenance of a high-quality product. These resources are proudly endorsed by the Royal College of Nurses.

The resources provide an overview of:

- Relevant regulation and how PN is governed under pharmaceutical law.
- Stability and quality considerations: the aseptic techniques and processes used during the manufacturing of PN to prevent contamination by pathogenic organisms through manufacturing personnel, environment or equipment.
- Administration: prior to commencing PN it is essential that a member of the nutrition team carries out a detailed examination of metabolic, nutritional or functional variables. This detailed assessment ensures that an appropriate care plan, which considers optimum artificial feeding techniques, is devised for a patient.

You can learn more about ensuring high quality throughout the preparation, supply and administration of PN by watching the BSNA video and reading the accompanying infographic, both of which can be found at: [www.bsna.co.uk](http://www.bsna.co.uk).



## Parenteral nutrition advocacy documents

BSNA produces documents focussed on key issues across all the sectors. We have developed a 'Guide to Parenteral Nutrition' to provide HCPs with a basic understanding of PN. This can be accessed and downloaded from the BSNA website.

In addition to specifically PN resources, BSNA has produced several documents on the issue of malnutrition and the need for nutritional support. Documents such as '10 Point Plan to Improve the Management of Malnutrition: Summary Report' and 'Better Care Through Better Nutrition' can be found on the BSNA publications page. In addition, previous published articles are also available here such as 'Innovation and New Product Development in Medical Nutrition' and 'Clinical Nutrition Research Through the Years'.

BSNA publications are available on our website at: [www.bsna.co.uk/publications](http://www.bsna.co.uk/publications) and can be downloaded and shared with colleagues.

We welcome your thoughts on any further areas in which BSNA resources or events may be of value and encourage you to reach out for further information at: [info@bsna.co.uk](mailto:info@bsna.co.uk)



## About the British Specialist Nutrition Association

BSNA is the trade association representing the manufacturers of products designed to meet the particular nutritional needs of individuals; these include specialist products for infants and young children (including infant formula, follow-on formula, young child formula and complementary weaning foods), medical nutrition products for diseases, disorders and medical conditions, including oral nutritional supplements, enteral tube feeding and parenteral nutrition, as well as companies who aseptically compound chemotherapy, parenteral nutrition and CIVAS.

