

Putting nutrition at the heart of patient care



Enteral Plastic Safety Group (EPSG)

What is the EPSG?

The EPSG (Enteral Plastic Safety Group) is an associate member of BSNA representing the majority of leading UK enteral feeding device suppliers, with clinical representation from the Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition Group (PENEG) of the British Dietetic Association (BDA), National Nurse Nutrition Group (NNG) and supported by Patients On Intravenous & Nasogastric Nutrition Therapy (PINNT), British Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (BAPEN) and British Pharmaceutical Nutrition Group (BPNG).

Our vision is to be recognised as the definitive and trusted voice of the enteral plastics industry committed to improving patient safety and clinical outcomes; and our mission is:

- To represent the enteral plastics industry
- To ensure that all patients have optimal access to high quality enteral plastic devices through choice and innovation
- To deliver education and awareness
- To enhance patient safety for healthcare professionals and patients.

The EPSG discusses enteral feeding device safety from both a clinical and manufacturing perspective. The term 'enteral feeding device' refers to any type of feeding tube that is placed into the gastro-intestinal tract, i.e. nasogastric (NG), nasojejunal (NJ), gastrostomy (Button, PEG/RIG) or jejunostomy (JJE), as well as giving/extension sets, syringes and enteral feeding pumps.

ENFit (ISO 80369/3)

Following the reverse luer system advocated by the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) alert, a working group of the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) began developing standards for alternative connectors for enteral and respiratory applications (ISO 80369). The EPSG developed standardised compliance with best practise by engaging with a wide range of stakeholders including senior clinicians, BAPEN, BDA and NNG. The EPSG also collaborated with regulatory and statutory bodies, such as the British Standards Institution (BSI), the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), the NHS Supply Chain (NHSSC), the National Institute for the Health and Care Excellence (NICE), and the NPSA.

Based on these discussions, ENFit emerged as the preferred patient safety standard globally to meet ISO 80369/3. The ENFit patient safety standard means that all enteral plastics will have the same connection system. In Spring 2019, the EPSG commissioned an article in Complete Nutrition to summarise the work and engagement which took place during this transition.



Our commitment to the future

Producing as little waste in the manufacture and supply of products is a key target for BSNA member companies, with many lines of company portfolios working to strive to become 100% recyclable. BSNA, and the EPSG as an associate member, are committed to working with government and key stakeholders to improve regulation and practice around packaging to ensure sustainability throughout the entire packaging supply chain.

The following companies are members of the EPSG: Abbott, Cardinal Health, Enteral UK, Fresenius Kabi, NeoMed, Nestlé Health Science, Nutricia and Vygon.

* Nestlé Health Science supports the work done by device manufacturers to ensure full adoption of ENFit by all HCP providers using enteral nutrition products in the 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. www.bsna.co.uk