

Nutrition Support Team Improves Continuity of Care

Janelle Peterson, Nutrition Specialist, Pediatric Home Service, Roseville, MN

Over the past 6 years, about 35 pediatric patients have been admitted to Pediatric Home Service TPN service. During that time the nurses, dietitians, pharmacists, and medical social worker involved in the care of these patients found situations that led to the development of a Process Improvement Group. This group met once a week for 4 months to research all details of the care of TPN patients admitted to Pediatric Home Service. After the group had completed the research and review portion, a Nutrition Support Team (NST) was put into place.

The NST group meets weekly to review patient information gained at the nursing visit, through review of the home nutrition record, and from laboratory results. Providers may be conferenced into the NST meeting if they desire completing the continuum of care and the team concept. The NST has received positive feedback from physicians and nurse practitioners about the continuity of care provided by the NST in the home care setting. Through team meetings and coordinated review of the care plan and recommendations, we provide comprehensive care that can lead to positive patient outcomes.

In the past year, two children under the age of one year were transitioned off TPN within 9 to 10 months of initiation. The primary physicians attributed the team concept of nutrition support to this outcome.

The NST continues to monitor issues that may arise and work as a team to make changes that benefit the entire team.

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