

An update from the BSNA

Starting June off with Dietitians Week

June is a great month for sharing insights and knowledge around the value of nutritional care and how important dietitians are to ensuring patients can access the right support to maintain good nutrition and hydration. Through Dietitians Week (3-7 June) BSNA joins with British Dietetic Association and others to celebrate the impact and value of dietitians in the UK. Here at BSNA, we collaborate and work with a range of dietitians across many specialities and we take this week as an opportunity to recognise the value of this highly skilled profession.

Supporting dietitians through education and training opportunities – understanding and exploring the role of parenteral nutrition (PN)

BSNA recognises the existence of a gap in education and training opportunities on PN for current and future healthcare professionals, and one of the ways we do that is by offering training sessions to dietetic students. Through the sessions, we aim to contribute to appropriate, timely and safe patient access to PN.

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

So far in 2025, with support from experts in our member companies, we have delivered 4 sessions with a further 7 planned over the remainder of the year! We are delighted to be able to offer this opportunity to so many students, and if you know of any university or course which may benefit from an education session on PN, please contact BSNA at: info@bsna.co.uk.

Managing PN at home – resources for patients and carers

BSNA has also developed two educational video animations to explain how patients receiving parenteral support in hospital can effectively manage their treatment at home once discharged from hospital, including what to expect at every stage of their journey. The videos are a guide for patients and caregivers and can be used to help answer any questions the patient or caregiver may have.

The first video focuses on longer term home parenteral support (HPS) and is designed for patients who will be discharged from hospital on HPS who are likely to be on long-term HPS. The second video is

focused on shorter term HPS, aimed at patients who may eventually stop receiving parenteral support at home for a number of reasons which will be discussed and agreed with their nurses and their nutrition support team. Both videos can be accessed through the BSNA website 'Parenteral Nutrition' pages: <https://bsna.co.uk/pages/about-specialist-nutrition/parenteral-nutrition>.

World Food Safety Day: Science in action

June also sees World Food Safety Day (7 June) and the theme of this year's World Food Safety Day draws attention to the use of scientific knowledge as key to reducing illness, cutting costs and saving lives.

The most specialised nutrition produced is PN, developed through sophisticated scientific knowledge particularly in how its components are formulated for patient-specific needs – crucial in delivering optimal care and promoting recovery.

The process of producing this nutrition is therefore a complex one involving multiple, carefully controlled and regulated steps in an aseptic environment. These steps are essential to ensure the quality and safety of products is maintained during production, processing, delivery and administration of the product.

BSNA's survey on PN

Last year, BSNA conducted a survey on PN among HCPs, including dietitians, pharmacists, nurses, and gastroenterologists, to gain an insight into HCP views on the use of PN, in particular looking at perceived barriers and confidence in use.

Nearly 170 responses were received, and the survey highlighted important factors for improving the use of PN: perception, confidence in managing potential complications, the ability to prescribe and training for HCPs.

We are grateful to all respondents for providing their views and experiences on using PN with patients and an infographic exploring the results in more detail is available through the BSNA website.



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.