

The Appropriate Usage of Out Hours PN in an Acute Hospital



Mahon M, Hickey Y, Bates N and Barnes L
Dietetic Department, St. Vincent's University Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin 4

Background

St Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH) has an out of hours (OOH) Parenteral Nutrition (PN) procedure for when a dietitian is unavailable. Guidance is attached to each bag outlining rate of PN infusion, requirement to check allergies and prescribing IV vitamins and minerals. The usage of OOH PN has not been reviewed before.

Aims & Research Design

This audit aimed to review the number of patients commenced on OOH PN and compliance with prescribing procedures, which has not been explored before.
Data was retrospectively collected from healthcare records of patients commenced on OOH PN over a 3 month period (July - September 2025). ICU patients were excluded.

Results



During the three month period four patients commenced on OOH PN. Three patients were commenced during weekends. All patients had PN delivered centrally. All patients were reviewed on the next working day by a dietitian, and it was deemed appropriate commencement of PN with patients remaining on PN for > 5 days.

Number of patients commenced on OOH PN = 4	
Charted IV vitamins and minerals correctly	N=3
Charted correct infusion rate	N=3
Allergies checked on drug Kardex	N=4

Conclusion

This is the first time examining OOH PN usage. PN delivery is dependent on central access which is not routinely done OOH, this may account for low number of OOH PN. These low numbers may results in unfamiliarity of the OOH PN and increased risk of errors. It may be required to reflect on the risk versus benefit of OOH PN within SVUH.

Future Directions

While it was the first time auditing the numbers of patients was lower than expected, and another audit at a different time of year will occur.
In relation to the prescribing errors the information attached to the PN bag will be reviewed to make the guidance clearer to reduce errors.