

Safe Parenteral Nutrition Practices

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Objectives:

1. Discuss the A.S.P.E.N. *Safe Practices for Parenteral Nutrition* document and areas that will be further explored and developed by the new guidelines process.
2. Present findings from the *Parenteral Nutrition Safety Summit* that supports safe practice guidelines.
3. Evaluate available evidence to support safe practice guidelines for parenteral nutrition identifying areas in need of further research.

Summary:

Parenteral nutrition (PN) is a high-alert medication requiring safeguards to minimize error risk. Errors can occur at any point in the drug-use process especially from PN ordering through administration. Despite the existence of a number of guidance documents, the drug-use process for PN in practice still suffers from lack of standardization for prescribing, order verification and review, compounding, labeling, and administration. As a result, PN-related medication errors continue to be reported in the lay and professional literature. These describe significant and tragic but very often preventable outcomes. Findings from national surveys and a PN safety summit reflect a number of areas for concern some which can be addressed by attention to practice recommendations.

The initial American Society for Parenteral & Enteral Nutrition (A.S.P.E.N.) document describing safe practices for parenteral nutrition was published in 1998, with a revision published in 2004. The guidelines from the latter document should serve as the basis for recommendations adopted by healthcare organizations in practice. Additional documents specifically address issues related to compounding. Building off of the 2004 document, and using a new approach to guideline development, new safe practice guidelines for parenteral nutrition are in process. As much as is possible these are based on grading of available evidence. In the absence of evidence to address important questions, expert opinion based on scientific principles guides the recommendations for best practice until more data become available.

Outline:

Introduction

- Parenteral nutrition in the drug-use process

Safe Practices for Parenteral Nutrition

- ASPEN document (2004)
- Critical sections
- Practice recommendations

New Guidelines Process

- Overview
- Input from surveys and safety summit
- Safe practice guidelines for parenteral nutrition (SPG-PN)

Conclusion

References:

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