

Guidelines for the Community Provision of Enteral Feeds for Adults and Children

Background

Enteral tube feeding describes artificial nutrition support via a tube into the gastrointestinal tract, used when people can't meet their nutritional needs by food and fluid alone. Enteral feeding may be required by patients of all ages and due to a variety of different medical conditions. The duration of tube feeding in the community may vary from a few months to a life-long requirement.

Enteral feeding is usually initiated in hospital. People should be provided with at least a 7-day supply of feed and ancillary items in line with local contractual arrangements.

To facilitate enteral feeding for patients in the community, homecare providers deliver feed and ancillary supplies to enterally fed patients monthly. Local contracts are in place across Surrey Heartlands with different enteral feeding suppliers. As well as supplying the feed and necessary ancillaries these contracts also include a nursing service to provide training and clinical care. These contracts are different models – some require monthly prescriptions and others do not:

Geographical Place	Contracted supplier	On FP10 contract (prescriptions required)	Off FP10 contract (no prescription required)
East Surrey (ES)	Fresenius Kabi	✓	
Guildford and Waverley (G&W)	Nutricia		✓
North West Surrey (NWS)	Nutricia		✓
Surrey Downs (SD)	Nutricia	✓	

Considerations for all patients

- For all patients, SNOMED coding should be updated to indicate:
 - Patient is receiving enteral nutrition: SNOMED CT Code 229912004 Enteral Feeding
- Add an alert to the “medication issue” section of the practice system to highlight the patient is receiving enteral feed. This alert should either indicate the feed will be provided without the need for prescription (G&W and NWS) or that feed should be sent to the homecare provider pharmacy via a one-off nomination (SD and ES). See Top Tips on page 4 for details of alert messages.
- Enterally fed patients will be registered on a homecare provider's delivery system. This is the responsibility of the dietitian overseeing their nutritional care and should be completed prior to the patient being discharged home on enteral nutrition.
- Enteral feeds can have very similar names and are prone to sound alike errors (e.g., Fresubin Original, Fresubin Energy, Nutrison Multifibre, Nutrison Energy Multifibre). Check the correct product is selected from drop down menus on GP practice systems.
- Enterally fed patients should be under the ongoing care of a dietitian, who will update any changes to the patients' feed requirements, feeding regime and goals of feeding.

Off FP10 contract model - Guildford and Waverley and North West Surrey

Key features:

- Feed is delivered to patients on a monthly basis without the need for GP prescription.
- Enterally fed patients will be registered on the homecare provider's delivery system. This should be completed prior to the patient being discharged home on enteral nutrition.
- Feed should be recorded on GP system as a non-GP prescribed medicine in line with [Recording Non-GP prescribed medicines - Guide for Practices](#)

On FP10 contract model – Surrey Downs and East Surrey

Please note – as of October 2023 Nutricia Homeward are the homecare provider for Surrey Downs and Fresenius Kabi Homecare the provider for East Surrey. The below information includes references to both companies – please ensure the correct company is used.

Key features:

- A prescription is required by the homecare provider prior to sending feed to patients.
- Enterally fed patients will be registered on the homecare provider's delivery system. This should be completed prior to the patient being discharged home on enteral nutrition.
- Feed should be recorded on the GP system as a repeat prescription in line with the request from the managing dietitian. If the prescription request is unclear or if there are any queries please contact the managing dietitian.

Initiating a tube feeding prescription

The homecare provider will contact the GP surgery to request an initial prescription for the required feed. This may be of more than 1 month duration, to cover the period between discharge and the scheduled delivery date for the patient's area, and an additional 1-week buffer stock. **Please prescribe the volume requested.**

How to issue the prescription

1) Electronically

- **One-off nomination** allows patients with an EPS nomination to request a one-off prescription to be sent to a different pharmacy without the need to change their primary nomination. This allows practices utilising SystmOne & EMIS to prescribe more efficiently & effectively, reducing the time it takes for Nutricia Homeward/Fresenius Kabi Homecare* to receive the prescription and to dispense feed.
- When a prescription request is received from Nutricia Homeward/Fresenius Kabi Homecare **choose One-off nomination, search postcode ZE1 0AA choose either***
Surrey Downs: Homeward Pharmacy (Nutricia) FL377, postcode B98 0HU **or**
East Surrey: Calea (Fresenius Kabi) FVG64, postcode WA7 1NT

Please note – the enteral feeding homecare provider will request a repeat prescription every 28 days. The one-off nomination process will need to be followed **every time** an enteral feeding prescription is issued, otherwise the prescription will be sent to the patient's usual nominated pharmacy. **This will lead to the feed being dispensed twice**, i.e., by both the nominated pharmacy and Nutricia Homeward/Fresenius Kabi Homecare*, resulting in poor stock control and increased prescribing cost.

2) Print and Post

Practices not wishing to use the one-off nomination process can continue to **PRINT and POST** home enteral feed prescriptions to the following address:

Surrey Downs	East Surrey
Freepost Plus RSTX-URZX-BHSR	Freepost Plus RRAU-TKYZ-GALS
Nutricia Limited	Fresenius Kabi Homecare Ltd
Newmarket Avenue	Cestrian Court
Whitehorse Business Park	Eastgate Way
Trowbridge	Manor Park
BA14 0XQ	Runcorn
	WA7 1NT

Freepost envelopes are available from nutricia.rxteam@nhs.net or homecareenetr@fresenius-kabi.com. Please write any provided order numbers and on the prescription.

Please note – Electronic prescription is the preferred prescription method. Electronic prescriptions are faster, more reliable and have a reduced carbon footprint compared to the print and post system. Print and post may also result in retrospective processing and potential feed delays.

Additional help with processing prescriptions using one-off nominations, is available from the **Nutricia Homeward (Surrey Downs) prescription helpline Tel: 01225 893310**
Fresenius Kabi (East Surrey) Homecare Tel: 0808 1001990

Repeat prescriptions

The GP surgery will be contacted by letter or email every 28 days by the homecare company for an on-going prescription. If contacted by letter a freepost envelope should be included. The homecare company should also contact the patient or the patient's carer to undertake a stock check every 28-day cycle. The quantity requested to be prescribed and dispensed may be reduced if stock checks show an excess of feed stocks. It is important to provide the prescription in a timely manner (ideally 5-10 days prior to the patient's next delivery) to ensure the patient's feed is delivered as scheduled, because for many patients, their tube feed may be their sole source of food and/or fluids.

Please note – If a prescription request is received directly from the patient or patient's carer e.g., care home staff or NOK, check for any items that are being dispensed by Nutricia Homeward/Fresenius Kabi Homecare* to avoid duplicate prescribing with primary nominated pharmacy.

Changes to the feed prescription

Depending on the patient's nutritional requirements and feed tolerance their managing dietitian may request changes to the patient's feed. The dietitian will write to the GP to confirm the new feed name and volume and will indicate which products can be stopped due to the regimen change. Review visits are timed to minimise waste of existing tube feed stocks wherever possible, however the request for a new feed prescription may fall out of the existing 28-day cycle.

On FP10 Prescribing Top Tops - to help avoid duplicate dispensing	
✓	Nominate one member of practice to process all Nutricia Homeward/Fresenius Kabi Homecare* prescription requests
✓	<p>Add practice system alerts - to flag up that feed prescriptions should be dispensed by Nutricia Homeward/ Fresenius Kabi Homecare include details e.g. Send using one-off nomination via distance selling pharmacy. Search using postcode ZE1 0AA, then select:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeward Pharmacy (Nutricia) FL377* (Surrey Downs) or • Calea (Fresenius Kabi Homecare) FVG64* (East Surrey) <p>Example locations for alerts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient Alert box • Within the listing on the medicines tab utilising the pharmacy message text box • Include- 'To be supplied by Nutricia Homeward/Fresenius Kabi Homecare*' only' in medication directions
✓	Make available a list of all current tube fed patients to all staff advising them that all prescription requests received for these patients must be passed onto and processed by the nominated member of staff e.g., prescription clerks, reception staff, GPs
✓	Create a separate 'Tube feed prescription requests' folder within your generic email inbox to store all Nutricia/Fresenius Kabi Homecare* prescription email requests
✓	Create a patient specific 'Nutrition and Dietetics' folder in Docman if one does not already exist to keep all home enteral feeding dietitian correspondence e.g. detailing feeding regimen and any changes together with enteral feed prescription request letters.
✓	Ensure prescriptions include administration instructions. Dietitians letter should indicate these e.g., administer as a bolus via PEG
✓	<p>Feed prescriptions sent in error to nominated community pharmacy can be tracked and potentially cancelled.</p> <p>Contact pharmacy to check if the feed has been ordered from the wholesaler. Note if the pharmacy has ordered the feed this cannot be returned, and the prescription will be dispensed. If the pharmacy has not yet ordered the stock the prescription can be cancelled</p>
✓	Check prescription requests received directly from patient / carer/ care home staff etc. for items that are being dispensed by Nutricia Homeward/Fresenius Kabi Homecare* to avoid duplicate prescribing.
✓	Encourage patients and care home staff to make use of online stock control platform to ensure stocks of feeds and ancillaries do not accumulate.
✓	Be aware oral nutritional supplements (ONS) are used for tube feeding (up to 30% of tube fed patients use bolus ONS as part of their feeding regimen). Document this in medication directions, e.g., "Bolus via enteral feeding tube 5 x 200ml per day". Ensure these prescriptions are sent to Nutricia Homeward/Fresenius Kabi Homecare *
✗ DON'T	
✗	Don't forget to change to a one-off nomination if using EPS to issue the prescription. This can result in duplicate dispensing if there is an existing locally nominated pharmacy.
✗	Don't swap tube feeding prescription requests (including ONS being used for tube feeding) to what appear to be more cost-effective products. Powdered products are not licensed for use via enteral feeding tubes. Managing dietitians will select the most suitable feed for the patient.

* Ensure the correct home care company is selected out of Nutricia Homeward (Surrey Downs) and Fresenius Kabi (East Surrey) Homecare. If unsure, please contact the patient's managing dietitian.