# Let's Talk About ...

### **Parenteral nutrition**

Parenteral nutrition (PN) is a special liquid food mixture for children who cannot swallow food. Your child receives PN through an IV (small tube that goes into the vein).

### Why does my child need PN?

Your child needs PN if they cannot swallow food due to an abnormality or illness. Their digestive system may not be working right, or they may have had surgery to remove part of the stomach or intestines. Your child must get nutrition in another way.

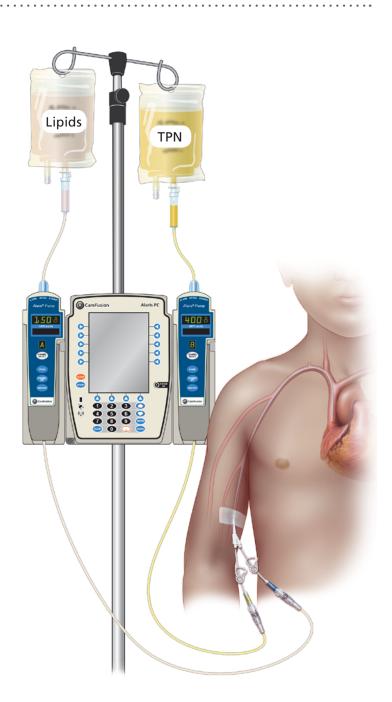
PN will provide your child with nutrients needed for normal growth and development. Good nutrition helps your child heal wounds and fight infections. Eating food is the best form of nourishment, but PN is a good way to get nutrition until your child is better.

#### How does my child receive PN?

PN consists of two liquids:

- Clear yellow fluid: Contains carbohydrates, protein, vitamins, minerals, and micronutrients (tiny traces of nutrients the body needs)
- White fluid: Delivers essential fatty acids for calories, healthy cells, and brain growth

Healthcare providers will give your child the two liquids together through the IV delivered by an IV pump machine. Your child will receive a new bag of PN every day because the fluid goes right into the bloodstream and it must be sterile to prevent a blood infection.



# How will my child feel while receiving PN?

Your child may need to urinate more frequently because they are receiving lots of fluids. Sometimes your child may feel warm to the touch. They may also feel sick. Medicine can help your child feel better if they have stomach sickness.

#### Are there risks when receiving PN?

Your child may get an infection, which can be treated with antibiotics. Healthcare providers will check your child's blood and adjust the fluids if the PN affects your child's body chemistry.

#### What do I need to do at home?

If your child will need PN at home, healthcare providers will teach you how to take care of the IV. It is important to keep the IV tubing sterile to prevent a blood infection.

If you have more questions about PN, ask your child's healthcare providers.

Notes	

Intermountain Healthcare complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Se proveen servicios de interpretación gratis. Hable con un empleado para solicitarlo. 我們將根據您的需求提供免費的口譯服務。請找尋工作人員協助

