

Exploring the Need for a Direct-Connect Closed Enteral Nutrition Delivery System

When patients experience difficulty with eating or digestion, some are required to adopt a nutrition therapy that delivers liquid formula or blenderized food directly to the gastrointestinal (GI) tract via a feeding tube inserted into the stomach. When prescribed at home, this treatment is called Home Enteral Nutrition (HEN).

HEN seeks to help patients meet daily caloric requirements by sourcing specially-formulated meals that provide the right balance of nutrients. Bolus tube feedings are commonly administered with repeated use of a disposable 60 mL syringe to administer approximately 1500-2000 mL of nutrients (this varies based on nutritional content and patient requirements). This syringe feeding can require 25-35 uses/day. The patient and/or caretakers learn to administer feedings, care for and maintain the enteral tube, and understand the equipment and associated devices involved, including a complex, clinically-designed, enteral feeding pump with the associated devices.



4-5 bolus feedings are required daily to meet nutrition goals, on average



Issue

Bolus feeding is not practical for many enteral patients. It is time-consuming, can be aspirated more easily, resulting in concerns for patient safety, and is often not well-tolerated. Moreover, patients and caregivers are responsible for sourcing and arranging delivery of enteral nutrition formula and related supplies from their dealer or home infusion company. Unfortunately, existing enteral devices and delivery systems are not tailored to the needs of the individual patient. Most are overly complex, difficult to administer, create unnecessary messes, and can be wasteful. This can result in inadequate nutrient

intake (ONS poster, 2019) And, formulations may provide insufficient nutrition (due to the difficulty to infuse into the patient or poor nutritional content), are not easily tolerated and require multiple steps to administer. Common patient complaints include weight loss, bloating, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, reflux, abdominal pain, low energy, and frustration at the inefficient feeding process.

Solution

HEN patients are demanding an enteral feeding solution designed for them versus the acute care setting or clinician. These patients want a spill-proof pouch, direct connect ENFit® device, tube and nutritious food options in one complete feeding system. No matter the patient dining preference, they need a system that can be tailored to meet dietary requirement that includes:

- Variety of shelf-stable, thermally processed foods or well tolerated formulations
- Spouted pouch and direct connect device that fits into an ENFit® feeding tube
- Ease of nutrition administration with less steps, components, mess and waste

One Third of Patients Say They Always Meet Their Prescribed Nutritional Goals.

