What are HEN and TPN?

**Home Enteral Nutrition (HEN)** is the administration of nutrition either orally or by feeding tube directly into the gastrointestinal tract.

**Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN)** is the administration of nutrition by means of an infusion of an intravenous nutrition formula. TPN is generally only used when it is not possible to meet a patient’s nutrition requirements through an oral or enteral route.

This document refers to HEN and TPN administered in the home environment by the patient or carer without a health care provider present.

**Victorian funding model for public health services**

**Home Enteral Nutrition**

HEN is funded via a specified grant with a service event target.\(^1\)

Funding is not intended to cover:

- consultation or enteral nutrition education with a gastroenterologist (funded in the specialist clinics funding model and reported under Tier 2 clinic 20.25)
- consultation or enteral nutrition education with a dietitian (funded in the specialist clinics funding model and reported under Tier 2 clinic 40.23)
- TPN performed by the patient or carer in their home without a health care provider present (funded through the TPN funding model)

**Total Parenteral Nutrition – home delivered**

TPN is funded via a specified grant with a service event target.\(^1\) Due to the requirement for highly specialised staff and the limited number of patients that require this service, five health services provide home TPN services: Austin Health, Melbourne Health, Monash Health, St Vincent’s Health and the Royal Children’s Hospital.

Funding is not intended to cover:

- consultation or TPN education with a gastroenterologist (funded in the specialist clinics funding model and reported under Tier 2 clinic 20.25)
- consultation or TPN education with a dietitian (funded in the specialist clinics funding model and reported under Tier 2 clinic 40.23)
- HEN performed by the patient or carer in their home without a health care provider present (funded through the HEN funding model)

\(^1\) Department of Health and Human Services policy and funding guidelines 2018
What can funding to public health services be used for?

Victoria provides funding for HEN and TPN and this funding is to be used to purchase the feed (formula), equipment and consumables required by eligible patients for their treatment. This includes the following:

- feed (formula)
- equipment
- consumables
- costs associated with managing the service (it does not include consultations with health professionals funded through specialist clinics)

Reporting mechanism

The department’s funding model for both HEN and TPN is consistent with the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority’s (IHPA) funding model. Funding definitions of the HEN and TPN programs are set out in the IHPA’s Tier 2 Non-Admitted Services Definitions Manual. HEN and TPN services are classified to Tier 2 classes 10.18 and 10.17, respectively.

All non-admitted patient sessions performed within a calendar month are bundled and counted as one non-admitted patient service event per patient per calendar month, regardless of the number of sessions. Non-admitted patient service events are defined in the IHPA’s Tier 2 Non-Admitted Services Compendium.

Health service targets are updated annually, based on the latest 12 months of activity. Any recall/throughput adjustment is applied at the full rate at the end of each financial year for health services whose activity is below or over target. The Department of Health and Human Services policy and funding guidelines provides further details on how these funding adjustments are calculated.

Health services that provide HEN and TPN services are required to register HEN and TPN clinics separately on the department’s Non-Admitted Clinic Management System (NACMS).

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is an independent statutory agency whose role is to implement the NDIS. The NDIS Act was established in 2013.

HEN is a support that is available through the NDIS for registered participants and may include support to administer HEN if the person is unable to administer HEN themselves due to their disability.

Victoria currently funds HEN and TPN as public health programs. The department is reviewing funding arrangements with the NDIA and this document should not prejudice any discussions with the NDIA.

As Victoria has not yet transitioned to full roll out of the NDIS, all patients that satisfy the patient eligibility criteria mentioned below remain eligible for public health programs.

Patient eligibility

Clinical eligibility requirements are determined by individual health services. The department does not specify these requirements. However, patients must:

- be managed by a health care provider participating in the program; and
- provide consent for the use of de-identified consumer level data for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

To monitor and manage their ongoing treatment, patients will be required to attend any clinic appointments at the health service.

Public and private patients

A patient can choose to receive HEN and TPN services as a public or private patient in a Victorian public hospital.
Public and private patients who are eligible for Medicare and meet patient eligibility criteria must receive all funded HEN and TPN program services, free of charge.

In instances where a patient has previously consented to be treated as a private patient in a public hospital, a patient may rescind their consent and have future treatment funded as a public patient.

If a patient treated in a private hospital and can no longer afford private care for HEN and TPN then they may be referred to a public hospital that offers the program. If the patient meets the established clinical criteria, the patient's referral cannot be rejected on the basis that the patient has had treatment in the private hospital.

**What are the requirements for the health care providers?**

- Health care providers receiving the funding are required to:
  - undertake clinical reviews of patients.
  - provide written information to clients about services, hospital arrangements and client rights and responsibilities.
  - implement and adhere to the best practice guidelines as described by the AuSPEN *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Home Enteral Nutrition*.

- Hospitals are encouraged to continue to make use of the *Hospital HEN Register* for local patient and program management.

**Further Information**

- Previous hospital circulars

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