



For Immediate Release

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A.S.P.E.N. Launches Error Reporting Project for Nutrition Support Professionals *Collaborative initiative will lead to key learnings from EN and PN errors*

May 18, 2010, Silver Spring, MD – The American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (A.S.P.E.N.) today launched a collaborative project with the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) to educate clinicians about nutrition support therapy error reporting.

This project, the first of its kind in the United States, aims to educate nutrition support therapy professionals on how and why they should report Parenteral Nutrition (PN) and Enteral Nutrition (EN) medication errors through the ISMP Medication Errors Reporting Program (MERP).

While not traditionally thought of as medications, EN and PN are therapies that are prescribed, dispensed, administered and monitored similar to medications. Administration also involves infusion devices that may be used in error. Errors range from “hazardous conditions” (situations that may lead to an error), to “close call” type errors that do not reach the patient (e.g. PN bag made incorrectly but never hung), to errors that cause patient harm (EN formulation delivered into an IV line).

The goals of A.S.P.E.N. and ISMP’s new initiative are to:

- Educate healthcare professionals about nutrition support therapy error reporting (what events to report, what information to include and how to report them)
- Partner with ISMP in gathering data from clinicians on nutrition support therapy and device errors and share information with constituents
- Develop educational strategies to reduce errors
- Collaborate on national initiatives that address error reduction for nutrition support therapies

“A.S.P.E.N. and ISMP together seek to change the way that error reporting is viewed among the nutrition support therapy community,” said **Peggi Guenter, PhD, RN, CNSN, A.S.P.E.N.’s Director of Clinical Practice, Advocacy, and Research Affairs.** “We are trying to encourage professionals to report their errors so that we can all learn from them and ultimately reduce the occurrence of such errors. This program will truly revolutionize the nutrition support field and bring light to ways that we can all deliver better patient care.”

ISMP uses error reports submitted to its program to learn more about the causes of errors and to share information and practical prevention recommendations with other healthcare practitioners and agencies, including A.S.P.E.N. members. In addition, A.S.P.E.N. and ISMP will jointly analyze errors submitted and publish error report findings.

ISMP guarantees confidentiality of information received and respects reporters' wishes as to the level of detail included in publications. ISMP is a federally certified patient safety organization (PSO), providing legal protection and confidentiality for submitted patient safety data and error reports. The information, excluding your name and contact information unless you grant permission, will be forwarded to the Food and Drug Administration and the manufacturer if the error may be due to pharmaceutical labeling, packaging, and nomenclature issues that may foster errors by their design.

For more information on A.S.P.E.N. and ISMP's error reporting project and to report errors through the ISMP MERP system, visit <http://www.nutritioncare.org/Index.aspx?id=4874>.

A.S.P.E.N.

The American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (A.S.P.E.N.) is dedicated to improving patient care by advancing the science and practice of nutrition support therapy. Founded in 1976, A.S.P.E.N. is an interdisciplinary organization whose members are involved in the provision of clinical nutrition therapies, including parenteral and enteral nutrition. With more than 5,500 members from around the world, A.S.P.E.N. is a community of dietitians, nurses, pharmacists, physicians, scientists, students and other health professionals from every facet of nutrition support clinical practice, research and education. For more information about A.S.P.E.N. please visit www.nutritioncare.org.

ISMP

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) is an independent, nonprofit charitable organization that works closely with healthcare practitioners and institutions, regulatory agencies, consumers, and professional organizations to provide education about medication errors and their prevention. ISMP represents more than 35 years of experience in helping healthcare practitioners keep patients safe, and continues to lead efforts to improve the medication use process. ISMP is a federally certified patient safety organization (PSO), providing healthcare practitioners and organizations with the highest level of legal protection and confidentiality for patient safety data and error reports they submit to the Institute. For more information on ISMP, or its medication safety alert newsletters and other tools for healthcare professionals and consumers, visit www.ismp.org.

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