

Flowsheet for Parenteral Support Planning

The figure is a flow chart with 15 labeled boxes linked by arrows. The chart is unidirectional. At each step, arrows point forward to one or more boxes. Here the flow chart is described as lists in which the possible next steps are listed beneath each box label.

1. Is the gut functional and accessible?

- If yes, proceed to 2.
- If no, proceed to 3.

2. Can full nutritional needs be met with oral or enteral nutrition within the next 5 days?

- If yes, proceed to Decision Box 3.
- If no, proceed to 3.

3. Is the patient malnourished and/or at high nutritional risk (e.g. critically ill)?

- If yes, proceed to Decision Box 1
- If no, proceed to 4.

4. Is the likely duration of parenteral nutrition 5 days or longer?

- If yes, proceed to Decision Box 2
- If no, proceed to Decision Box 3.

Decision Box 1: Early commencement of parenteral nutrition (within the first 24 to 48 hours) may be beneficial irrespective of likely duration of use. Central PN is preferred. Parenteral nutrition may not be appropriate in patients whose prognosis is inconsistent with aggressive nutrition support stages.

Decision Box 2: Parenteral nutrition may be indicated. Consider peripheral PN (if this is available in the health care facility) if likely duration of parenteral nutrition is less than 10-12 days or if central venous access is not available. Peripheral PN is not appropriate for long-term PN or for patients who are intolerant to parenteral lipid infusion or fluid-restricted. Parenteral nutrition may not be appropriate in patients whose prognosis is inconsistent with aggressive nutrition support strategies.

Decision Box 3: Oral or enteral nutrition is indicated as soon as possible. Parenteral nutrition is not recommended.