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Fresenius Kabi COVID-19 Update

Week Commencing : 27th April 2020

Please find below the latest information about how we are protecting our service to our patients and customers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please feel free to forward this email to any other colleagues who may benefit from this information.

This communication has been written to support all our enteral and parenteral nutrition customers. We appreciate that some information may not be relevant to you individually but have chosen to send one complete communication to prevent customers from receiving multiple overlapping emails.

Key Points:

- **Fresenius Kabi remains committed to supporting our patients and the HSE throughout this pandemic**
- **Our Nursing Service continues to facilitate rapid patient discharges and is helping to reduce the number of avoidable patient visits to hospital**
- **All enteral nutrition suppliers have seen an increase in demand for enteral feeding pumps – please contact your Fresenius Kabi representative if you have any pumps that can be returned**
- **A further two webinars are available to our customers, following on from the first webinar last week**

Overview Parenteral Nutrition

Current supplies of Parenteral Nutrition (PN):

Normal production has now resumed in our compounding unit, Calea. Thus, stock is currently being replenished on a regularly basis. In addition, we are continuing to maintain capacity from our contingency supplier as a precautionary measure.

Future supplies of Parenteral Nutrition (PN):

A crisis management team was established in Fresenius Kabi & Calea at the outset of the Covid-19 outbreak and a comprehensive risk assessment was undertaken. In line with our standard procedure, daily crisis management meetings take place and a number of proactive controls and protocols were subsequently implemented to mitigate the risk of Covid-19 transmission to staff, including thermal body temperature scanning of staff entering our building, comprehensive staff segregation strategies, stock storage across multiple sites and Covid-19 testing of staff with symptoms. These measures have proved very effective to date.

Home Parenteral Nutrition

With respect to supply of PN to Home Patients, relevant Hospitals and Health Care Professionals have been contacted to ensure contingency plans are in place for each patient.

The Homecare team continue to strive to provide a first-class service to our Home Patients. Patients continue to receive their PN supplies as normal. Office hours remain unchanged and we continue to provide a 24-hour helpline should any patients require emergency support outside of office hours.

We have contingency prescriptions on file for home patients, where possible, for both compounded and non-compounded PN to ensure continuity of supply to patients in the event of any disruption in the supply chain.

We also continue to monitor stock levels of ancillary items as there has been an unprecedented surge in demand for these items. We are asking patients to only order items required and not to stockpile in order to safeguard supply.

Our home delivery partners also have comprehensive contingency plans in place and are following all Covid-19 home delivery guidance issued by the National Clinical Homecare Association (UK).

Customer Support – Educational resources

New content has been added to clinicalnutrition.ie which may be of particular interest to you. Dr Chris Clarke discusses Nutritional Challenges in the ICU and his colleague Jill Smyth RD works through an ICU case study.

Overview Enteral Nutrition

Current Supplies of Oral Nutrition Supplements

Fresenius Kabi are monitoring stock levels diligently throughout the Covid-19 period. Fresenius Kabi have not experienced any ONS stock out at our distributor (Allphar) and ask if you experience any stock issue in your distribution channel that you contact us so that we can advise and make any necessary arrangements to ensure receipt of your oral nutritional supplements.

We ask that you keep in contact with your local representative or the Enteral Nutrition Product Manager: Lorraine.finnegan@fresenius-kabi.com.

Tube feeds/Giving sets/Pumps:

Please contact Lorraine.Finnegan@fresenius-kabi.com to report any increased demands so that we can ensure ongoing continuity of supply.

Healthcare Professional Support – sample service

We at Fresenius Kabi are continuing to offer our sample service so that you as Healthcare professionals can request samples to be sent directly to your patients' homes and your place of work. We recognise this as even more important than ever that we offer a fast and reliable method to get your patients started on their oral nutrition supplements without having to leave their home to do so.

Samples can be arranged by visiting our dedicated sample website: www.fresubinsamples.ie

or

Contacting our Irish head office on: +353 (0) 1841 3030
E mail: enquiries.ireland@fresenius-kabi.com

Overview Nursing

We continue to support hospital clinical teams by assisting and facilitating rapid patient discharges, where possible. In addition, in certain areas, we are providing an enhanced nursing service – this is helping to address the additional demands on hospitals, with the aim of seeing more patients in the community.

Please be reassured, our Nursing team have access to the required PPE when carrying out any patient contact activities.

Applix Pumps – Returns

All enteral nutrition suppliers are experiencing increased demand for enteral feeding pumps. **In order to facilitate a continued supply of pumps throughout the**

COVID-19 pandemic, we are continuing to ask all customers to return any enteral feeding pumps not in use.

To arrange the return of any enteral feeding pumps, please contact either your Fresenius Kabi representative, or the homecare team (if the pump is currently with a Homecare patient), as soon as possible.

Webinars

Fresenius Kabi has also organised a series of three webinars. These webinars aim to provide Healthcare Professionals with useful information relating to clinical nutrition requirements for patients with COVID-19.

The first webinar 'Feeding the critically ill COVID-19 patient: from recommendations to bedside', was held on the 14th of April and is now available to play back.

The second webinar 'COVID-19 - How to optimise nutrition on the road to recovery', was held on the 28th of April and is also available to play back.

The next webinar will be held on **12th May 2020, 14:00–15:10.**
'COVID-19 patient: Worldwide experience from ICU to discharge'

Focus: This webcast will look at the worldwide experience from ICU to discharge from a number of different countries.

Please visit <https://nutritionevents.com/covid-19/nutritional-support-webinars/> to register, attend the webinars or view the webinar 2 working days after the event

We will continue to update you on an ongoing basis to support and keep you informed in this challenging time.

If you wish to unsubscribe, please reply to enquiries.ireland@fresenius-kabi.com