**Please see the notice below regarding the shortage affecting injectable calcium chloride from CAPS, our pharmacy that supplies TPN. EFFECTIVE June 29th, Calcium Gluconate will not be available in Adult TPN.**

June 20, 2018

Director of Pharmacy:

As you may be aware, Calcium Gluconate has been on the Drug Shortage list and is currently on Back Order. We were hoping to see a release of some Calcium gluconate around this time, however, calcium gluconate’s release date got pushed back further.  The latest update we have on Calcium Gluconate release date is in late July or early August.

After further review of our stock and with this latest release report, CAPS –CT will be **restricting and reserve calcium gluconate for neonate and pediatric PN orders only, starting June 29th, 2018 (Friday ). Please have the Calcium removed prior to submitting your Adult TPN orders to CAPS-CT on and after June 29th**

Approximately two weeks from now, we will do another evaluation on our stock.  We may need to make further changes to the current neonate/peds allotment.

Please communicate this with your nutrition support team and your pharmacists as soon as you can, so you will have enough time to plan. I have enclosed the ASPEN’s recommendations during the Calcium Shortage and a notice to be posted where TPN’s are ordered.

Thanks for your understanding in advance for working with us to get through this shortage.   I will keep you updated if any release date changed or if we get the product sooner. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Again, thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

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Here is ASPEN’s recommendations during Calcium Shortage:

1. If calcium gluconate is removed from the PN formulation monitor serum calcium concentrations along with albumin or preferably ionized calcium concentrations.
2. If intravenous calcium is necessary, administer calcium chloride as a separate infusion from the PN.
3. Calcium gluconate is the preferred form of calcium used in multicomponent PN. It is important to note that PN solubility curves for calcium gluconate cannot be applied to calcium chloride. The quantitative amount of calcium to add as calcium chloride to a PN formulation that contains phosphate is VERY limited. To our knowledge the only published evidence is from *AJHP* 1980:37,673-4. This related to the comparative amount of calcium as gluconate vs chloride in a dextrose/amino acid (2in1) PN formulation. Based on this limited data, we would not recommend exceeding concentrations of 5mEq/L of calcium (as chloride) and the PN mush have a phosphate concentration of 15mmol/L of phosphate or less and the amino acids must be 4.25% or greater in a dextrose/amino acid (2in1) PN formulation.

Note \*\*\*If your pharmacy has IV Calcium Gluconate or Calcium Chloride available, you can consider to give in a separate IV calcium from the PN.