

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [submissions.ihacpa](mailto:submissions.ihacpa)  
**Subject:** IHACPA consultation  
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18<sup>th</sup> July, 2023

**RE: Changes to Funding for Home Parenteral Nutrition**

The Intestinal Failure team at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney would like to provide feedback to IHACPA specifically about changes to the “TPN – Self Administered at Home” NWAU weighting that was introduced for 2022/23 and ongoing.

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital has the largest Home Parenteral Nutrition Service in Australia. Like all services across Australia this service is under-funded and has always relied on the “TPN – Self Administered at Home” funding to assure our Executive that the high costs of this service largely balanced through allocation of NWAU.

Reductions in NWAU weighting has had a huge impact on our service as per below:

- Our own costing has indicated that current inpatient funding does not cover the inpatient costs for Intestinal failure and the NWAU weighting for ‘TPN – Self Administered at Home’ does not cover the costs of the TPN solutions and ancillaries, not including staffing resources, overhead costs, pharmacy costs and so on.
- Reporting of costs to the National Benchmarking Portal are extremely inaccurate. There is a lack of guidance as to what should and should not be reported on this portal. Also, with no dedicated staffing for many services, these costs are not being captured.
- Our service has seen a 500% increase in referrals with changes in NWAU weighting as some Home Parenteral Nutrition services across NSW close their referral pathways for people not living in their health district. We have gone from 1-2 referrals per month to 5-6 referrals per month. We are unable to accommodate many of these referrals due to constraints on our own service, meaning patients are remaining as inpatients, or not getting access to essential specialised care.

We strongly request the following actions:

1. Restore NWAU weightings to previous levels as a matter of priority.
2. Undertake a comprehensive costing of this service to inform actual service costs.
3. Provide greater reporting guidance for reporting going forward.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Peter Lim (Intestinal Failure Gastroenterologist), Dr Belinda Errington (Intestinal Failure Medical Lead), Mr Simon O’Toole (Home Parenteral Nutrition Clinical Nurse Consultant) and A/Professor Sharon Carey (Intestinal Failure Dietitian)  
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

**A/Professor Sharon Carey**

Manager, Nutrition and Dietetics [REDACTED]  
Director Allied Health Research & Education, Institute of Academic Surgery [REDACTED]

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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