

ESPGHAN**European Society for Paediatric
Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition**Rue Pellegrino Rossi 16
1201 Geneva, Switzerland
www.espghan.org**02.08.2022**Prof. Asena Serbezova
Minister of Health
5 Sveta Nedelya Square, 1000 Sofia
Bulgaria**RE: Importance of enteral nutrition and its availability to all children.**

Dear Prof. Serbezova,

Please allow us to approach you as President and General Secretary of the European Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, to highlight the importance of enteral nutrition in children, and to support access for all those in need, regardless of socio-economic status.

Medical nutrition comprises parenteral (intravenous) nutrition, regulated in pharmaceutical legislation, as well as enteral nutritional support regulated as 'food for special medical purposes' (FSMP), defined by the European Commission Directive 1999/21/EC. One important indication for the use of medical nutrition is disease-related malnutrition. Medical nutrition is not only evidence based effective medical therapy but also cost effective regarding overall health expenses.

As a medical society specialising in paediatric nutrition, and considering that disease related malnutrition is the most common cause of children not meeting their nutritional needs in Europe, we cannot overstate the importance of this treatment. It is essential that enteral nutrition is available to all children so they have the opportunity to thrive despite underlying disease or medical complications.

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Experts agree, as highlighted in a 2015 paper focussing on disease related malnutrition¹, that there is convincing clinical evidence of the benefits of enteral medical nutrition, including weight gain, improvement of muscle function, reduction in mortality and complications, reduced length of hospital stay, reduced admissions/re-admissions to hospital, improvement of wound healing and increase in quality of life. Ensuring the health of children will ultimately lead to a healthy society and reduce financial burdens on health care systems.

Considering these facts, and given our specialised area of expertise in this field where many of our members are dealing with the results of this treatment on a daily basis, we would like to reiterate our strong support for ensuring that enteral nutrition is available and affordable to all children who require it.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Ulrich Baumann
ESPGHAN President

Much appreciate your help ! Happy to discuss!



Prof. Mary Fewtrell
ESPGHAN General Secretary

¹ The view of European experts regarding health economics for medical nutrition in disease-related malnutrition, European Journal of Clinical Nutrition (2015) 69, 539–545; doi:10.1038/ejcn.2014.280; published online 21 January 2015

