Changes to Enteral Feed Cost Comparators

Amendments are to be made to the four Cost Comparators which relate to enteral feeds. The drug lists for each have been reviewed to address any omissions or products which could be assigned to a more appropriate category. Changes will be effective for data from January 2014 onwards i.e. reports from 2013/14 Q4 (Quarter to March 2014) onwards.

**NHSBSA systems do not allow a product to belong to more than one of the four enteral feed categories. Therefore, in instances where an enteral feed could be assigned to more than one category, the following criteria are applied:**

***Feeds that can be both a sip and tube feed***

* If the feed is presented in any type of container <300ml and can be sipped or given by tube, it is to be assigned as a sip feed
* If the feed is presented in any type of container >300ml and can be sipped or given by tube it has been assigned as a tube feed
* If the feed is for drinking (i.e. not a tube feed) and can be sipped but is in a container >300ml it is assigned as ‘other’.

***Feeds that are paediatric***

* *Any* feed that is specifically designed to treat malnutrition in children has been assigned as a paediatric feed. This takes precedence over tube/sip or other feeds
* Any feed that can be used in children *and* adults has been assigned as a tube/sip or other.

***Feeds that are reconstituted***

* If a feed is reconstituted from a powder and can then either be sipped (e.g. from a special shaker) or given via tube, it has been assigned as ‘other’

If the food is presented as a dessert type product this is assigned ‘other’.