The Price to Pay
Consequences of paediatric critical illness
and the role of parenteral nutrition

1. Although critically ill term neonates and undernourished children are considered vulnerable to the impact of low nutritional intake, their outcomes can be improved by withholding parenteral nutrition during the first week of critical illness. (This thesis)

2. Results of the long-term follow-up invalidate the concerns on side-effects of withholding parenteral nutrition during the first week of critical illness as an argument not to implement this strategy. (This thesis)

3. Change in weight Z-score during PICU stay is an inappropriate outcome parameter to guide nutritional interventions in the acute phase of critical illness. (This thesis)

4. Preventing new infections is an important objective in reducing direct medical costs in critically ill children. (This thesis)

5. Children who have been critically ill should be followed-up after discharge with a neuropsychological evaluation – which should include parent- and patient-reported outcome measures – in order to screen for neurocognitive and psychosocial development. (This thesis)

6. It is reasonable to take into account the costs of an intervention, compared to the health benefits, when deciding to pay for an intervention with public resources. (NRC, 2015)

7. Recommendations from international guidelines that are merely based on observational studies and surrogate outcomes can cause harm to patients.

8. Journals that reject well-designed manuscripts because of negative results influence the magnitude and direction of effect sizes derived from meta-analyses. (BMJ, 2012)

9. Sinds de decentralisatie van de jeugdzorg laten gemeenten kansen liggen in het aanbod van (kosten)effectieve zorg voor kinderen en adolescenten. (Medisch Contact, 2018)

10. Maternal celiac disease should be listed in the “Verloskundige Indicatielijst” as a risk factor for obstetric complications including preterm birth, low birth weight, born small-for-gestational age, and stillbirth. (J Obstet Gynecol, 2016)

11. Soms moet je je leven op zijn kop houden om te kijken of er nog meer in zit. (Loesje)

Esther van Puffelen, 4 juni 2019