



APRIL 2021

MALNUTRITION CONNECTION

Providing Malnutrition Awareness and Advocacy Information to Share

Global Malnutrition Composite Score Moves Forward

A new malnutrition-related quality measure is on the path toward approval and that is good news for older adult nutrition care. **The Global Malnutrition Composite Score** is a first-of-its-kind composite measure. The Composite Score summarizes the key steps in the established malnutrition care [workflow](#) (malnutrition screening, assessment, diagnosis, and development of a care plan) that are necessary to identify and intervene for malnutrition risk in a timely and effective manner. The steps for gaining approval of the Composite Score in a public quality reporting program include:

- STEP 1** — In late December 2020, the [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#) published its final [2020 Measures Under Consideration List](#) for hospitals, which included the [Global Malnutrition Composite Score](#) (MUC20-0032).
- STEP 2** — Earlier this year the Global Malnutrition Composite Score was favorably reviewed by committees under the [National Quality Forum's \(NQF\) Measure Application Partnership and Prevention and Population Health](#) groups.
- STEP 3** — There is an opportunity for public comment on the Global Malnutrition Composite Score during the [NQF endorsement process](#) which opened April 1st and a final NQF vote on endorsement of the Composite Score measure is expected mid-year.
- STEP 4** — [The Global Malnutrition Composite Score](#) measure may also be included in CMS' proposed policy for the 2022 Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program, anticipated this spring.

What this means for older adults:

According to [CMS](#) "Quality health care is a high priority for the President, the Department of Health and Human Services, and CMS." CMS uses quality measures in its various quality initiatives that include quality improvement, pay for reporting, and public reporting. **The Global Malnutrition Composite Score measure can provide valuable information to patients and their families, healthcare professionals and institutions, and federal stakeholders about nationwide performance on nutrition care practice standards to address malnutrition.**

For more information:

- Check out the recently [published](#) research on the development and validation of the Global Malnutrition Composite Score that documented it as a "compelling and comprehensive tool for assessing the quality of care provided to hospitalized patients, aged 65 years and older, at risk of malnutrition."
- [Register](#) for a new National Health Council webinar on "[Nutrition-Related Quality of Care Measures: How Might They Improve Care for People with Chronic Conditions?](#)" on April 9, 12:00 pm EDT. This free webinar will explore how past and current nutrition-related quality measures can impact the lives of people with chronic conditions, who may be more vulnerable to the risks of malnutrition, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, with increasing concerns about food insecurity.

New Malnutrition Quality Care Resources Available

The individual component measures of the **Global Malnutrition Composite Score** have already been implemented by more than 250 hospitals as part of a national hospital [learning collaborative](#) of the Malnutrition Quality Improvement Initiative (MQii).

The MQii is redesigning their Toolkit and [website](#) to be more user-friendly and better aligned with the Nutrition Care Process. Look for a new toolkit and website that will make it easier to find resources for establishing quality improvement projects, designing data collection tools, and documenting malnutrition-related evidence.

