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MALNUTRITION CONNECTION

Providing Malnutrition Awareness and Advocacy Information to Share

2020 Update | **The National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults**

With the COVID-19 pandemic potentially worsening America's existing malnutrition crisis for older adults, a broad group of advocates has just released an updated **National Blueprint** with specific recommendations to address malnutrition among seniors, a group particularly susceptible to the problem.

Released by the national advocacy group Defeat Malnutrition Today, along with Avalere Health and other multidisciplinary stakeholders, [the National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults, 2020 Update](#) calls for a range of strategies to be implemented across the healthcare institution and community spectrum including through telehealth services.

“Malnutrition remains a legitimate and growing public health threat that has been intensified by the disparities and social isolation resulting from COVID-19. As our country moves forward with plans for economic and health system recovery, we see an important opportunity for the National Blueprint to help guide establishing national goals for improved access to high quality malnutrition care and nutrition services.”

— Bob Blancato, National Coordinator for Defeat Malnutrition Today

One key recommendation of the **National Blueprint** calls for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to integrate malnutrition care in quality programs and care models across care settings.

The Defeat Malnutrition Today coalition strongly supports the [Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2020](#), introduced by Reps. Eliot Engel and Peter King. The Act would provide coverage for Medicare beneficiaries to obtain covered treatment from nutrition and dietetics professionals, including treatment for malnutrition.

Social Media:



- Up to one out of every two older Americans is at risk for #malnutrition yet there is a gap in the delivery of malnutrition care. @dftmalnutrition has updated The **National Blueprint** for Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults to bridge this <https://bit.ly/2ZeqVOX>
- #COVID19 has shown how much our older adults are at risk of #malnutrition. @dftmalnutrition has updated The National Blueprint for Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults to reflect ways to improve #malnutrition <https://bit.ly/2ZeqVOX>