

FEBRUARY 2017

MALNUTRITION CONNECTION

Providing Malnutrition Awareness and Advocacy Information to Share

New Study Finds Hospital Readmission Rates More than 50 Percent Higher for Patients with Malnutrition

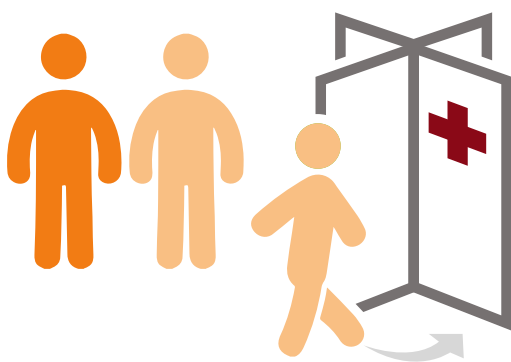
A newly released study further confirms the devastating human and financial toll of malnutrition across the United States and, more specifically, quantifies its significant and negative impact on hospital readmission rates.

“Malnutrition is bringing patients back to the hospital for more inpatient care and driving up healthcare costs in the process.”

The Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) study found that 30-day hospital readmission rates for all causes (other than maternal or neonatal) to be more than 50 percent higher for patients with malnutrition.

Rates of readmission were found to be highest among adults aged 18-64 years, those paid by Medicaid and those residing in metropolitan areas. Further, the average costs per readmission for patients with malnutrition were found to be 26-34 percent higher (\$16,900 to \$17,900) for patients with malnutrition compared to those without malnutrition (\$13,400). “This is a problem with real consequences to its victims and to our nation,” said Bob Blancato, Defeat Malnutrition Today’s National Coordinator. “While we previously knew that one in three hospital patients is malnourished upon admission, the HCUP study confirms that malnutrition is bringing many of these patients back to the hospital for additional inpatient care and driving up healthcare costs in the process.”

Many of the increased readmissions and costs could be avoided, Blancato added, because malnutrition is preventable and treatable. “We need to do a better job at the clinical and community level in screening for, diagnosing, and treating malnutrition. We need malnutrition-related quality measures that would ensure malnutrition screenings and interventions are occurring and awareness of the problem is raised in general.”



50 % HIGHER HOSPITAL READMISSION RATES for patients with malnutrition

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

defeatmalnutrition.today

www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb218-Malnutrition-Readmissions-2013.pdf | bit.ly/2kuRcl0

Sample Social Media Content:



- This just in: Hospital readmission rates for all causes found to be 50% higher for patients with **#malnutrition**. Time to take action!
- Did you know **#malnutrition** brings US patients back to the hospital for more inpatient care and increases healthcare costs?
- **#malnutrition** causes more hospital readmissions: one more reason [insert name of your organization/Twitter handle] supports measures to screen and diagnose patients at risk.
- Speak up & get involved in the discussion about **#malnutrition**, which has now been found to increase hospital readmissions by 50%!
- More bad news on malnutrition: it's driving up hospital readmissions and costs. Defeat **#malnutrition** today!
- [Insert name of your organization/Twitter handle] supports measures to defeat **#malnutrition** and reduce its impact on US hospital readmission.