

JANUARY 2018

MALNUTRITION CONNECTION

Providing Information to Share on Malnutrition Awareness and Advocacy

Malnutrition Screening and Diagnosis Research Results

In the current issue of the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*, healthcare experts focus on the latest findings of malnutrition among hospitalized patients. (<http://bit.ly/2DgFFCZ>)

In one recent study, “Malnutrition Diagnosis during Adult Inpatient Hospitalizations: Analysis of a Multi-Institutional Collaborative Database of Academic Medical Centers,” the researchers aimed to define the prevalence of malnutrition diagnosis reported among inpatient hospitalizations. Nearly 6 million hospitalizations across 105 institutions were studied during a 2-year period. The study concluded that “missing a malnutrition diagnosis appears to be a universal issue because the rate of malnutrition diagnosis was consistently low across academic medical centers (5% average).” They also found that institutional culture influences malnutrition diagnosis. “Quality improvement efforts aimed at improved structure and process appear to be needed to improve identification of malnutrition.”

In another recent study, “The Malnutrition Screening Tool in Geriatric Rehabilitation: A Comparison of Validity When Completed by Health Professionals With and Without Malnutrition Screening Training Has Implications for Practice,” the researchers studied the validity of the Malnutrition Screening Tool (MST) in geriatric rehabilitation because it had been evaluated in a research environment but not in professional practice. The study concluded that “the application of the MST by health professionals without malnutrition risk and screening training in rehabilitation may not provide sufficient accuracy in identifying patients with malnutrition risk.”

Learn More About Malnutrition Screening and Diagnosis Through These Resources:

- Malnutrition Frequently Underdiagnosed and Undertreated Among Hospital Patients: <http://bit.ly/2DEa4rL>
- Malnutrition Diagnosis during Adult Inpatient Hospitalizations: Analysis of a Multi-Institutional Collaborative Database of Academic Medical Centers: <http://bit.ly/2FHQWtJ>
- The Malnutrition Screening Tool in Geriatric Rehabilitation: A Comparison of Validity When Completed by Health Professionals With and Without Malnutrition Screening Training Has Implications for Practice: <http://bit.ly/2DFue4V>
- Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Volume 118, Issue 1: <http://bit.ly/2DgFFCZ>

Sample Social Media Content:

- Check out the @eatright Journal this month <http://bit.ly/2DgFFCZ> - It is clear from recent studies we need #QualityMeasures to improve #malnutrition screening and diagnosis
- We need to address the hidden burden and cost of #malnutrition for hospital patients! Screening and lack of diagnosis are MAJOR problems according to recent studies: <http://bit.ly/2DgFFCZ>