

MAY 2020

MALNUTRITION CONNECTION

Providing Malnutrition Awareness and Advocacy Information to Share

Older Americans Month, #DoACoVIDCheck, and Malnutrition Quality Measures

Every May, the Administration for Community Living leads our nation's observance of Older Americans Month. The theme for 2020 is "**Make Your Mark.**"



MAKE YOUR MARK: MAY 2020

This theme was selected to encourage and celebrate countless contributions that older adults make to our communities. Their time, experience, and talents benefit family, peers, and neighbors every day. Communities, organizations, and individuals of all ages are also making their marks. This year's theme highlights the difference *everyone* can make – in the lives of older adults, in support of caregivers, and to strengthen communities.

MAY IS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

#DoaCoVIDCheck to protect them from **#malnutrition** during this time of social isolation

- Ensure they have an adequate supply of food
- Check in on their mental health
- Visit www.defeatmalnutrition.today/covid-19 for more information

#DoaCoVIDCheck

Now, more than ever, it is essential to show the difference that we can make in our older Americans lives. Today, so many older Americans' are isolated in their homes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This has placed them at increased risk for poor nutrition and its negative health impacts. Social isolation and mental health issues, which can be prompted or intensified by the pandemic, are also known to increase older adults' malnutrition risk.

Because of this, Defeat Malnutrition Today has started a campaign called "**#DoaCoVIDCheck**" to encourage people to check on their elderly friends, family and neighbors. Learn more about how you can participate in the campaign [here](#).

Malnutrition Quality Measures Now Available in QCDRs for MIPS Reporting:

The high prevalence of malnutrition often goes undiagnosed and untreated, leading to many negative health outcomes. To address this, Malnutrition Quality Improvement Initiative (MQii) partners—the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (Academy) and Avalere Health—have led the development of malnutrition quality measures. Recently, they collaborated with quality experts and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Practice Improvement and Measures Management Support (PIMMS) staff to develop quality measures designed to promote an interdisciplinary team approach for malnutrition diagnosis and treatment through innovative measures for physician and registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN) reporting. In December 2019, CMS approved the inclusion of the new malnutrition quality measures into two Qualified Clinical Data Registries (QCDRs) for participation in the 2020 Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS).

The malnutrition quality measures are now available in the [Premier Clinician Performance Registry](#) and the [U.S. Wound Registry](#). The measures include opportunities for physician reporting (with the referral to an RDN of preoperative patients identified at risk of malnutrition) and reporting on appropriate documentation of malnutrition diagnosis. In addition, the measures include RDNs' direct reporting of completed nutrition assessments with recommendations/interventions for patients identified at malnutrition risk.

i To learn more, access the **QCDR Microlearning Series** (4 -15 min recorded webinars), FAQs, and Malnutrition Quality Measure Specifications available on the [Academy's Qualified Clinical Data Registry](#) webpage.

Check out this recent American Society on Aging QCDR [blog post](#).



Social Media:



Older adults homebound by **#COVID19** may not have access to the food they need. **#DoaCOVIDCheck** on the older adults in your life to protect them from **#malnutrition**. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/3aStaKD> **#OlderAmericansMonth**

#Malnutrition leads to more health-related complications and falls for older Americans. **#DoaCOVIDCheck** to protect the older adults in our lives from becoming malnourished during **#COVID19** crisis **#OlderAmericansMonth**

CMS approved the inclusion of the new **#Malnutrition** Quality Measures into two Qualified Clinical Data Registries (QCDRs) for participation in the 2020 Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS)! Learn more: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/practice/quality-management/quality-improvement/qualified-clinical-data-registry>