

ADDRESSING MALNUTRITION IN OLDER ADULTS: THE MALNUTRITION QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE

Did you know malnutrition is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality, especially among older adults? Evidence suggests that 20% to 50% of all patients are at risk for or are malnourished at the time of hospital admission¹ and a recent study shows that only 7% of patients are typically diagnosed with malnutrition during their hospital stay, leading to millions of cases left undiagnosed and potentially untreated.² Interested in identifying gaps in the nutrition care provided at your facility? Seeking resources and tools to help you improve the care your organization delivers? Consider embarking on a malnutrition quality improvement project as part of the Malnutrition Quality Improvement Initiative (MQii).

The MQii is a community of hospitals and health systems dedicated to improving malnutrition care and accelerating the dissemination of optimal malnutrition care practices. This initiative aims to advance evidence-based, high-quality, patient-driven care for hospitalized older adults who are malnourished or at risk for malnutrition.

To help facilities implement a quality improvement project, the MQii offers a Toolkit and a set of electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs), along with other resources to provide a step-by-step framework for malnutrition quality improvement. The Toolkit includes practical information to enable hospitals to achieve optimal nutrition standards of care, while data reported from the eCQMs will help hospitals demonstrate their success in meeting the standards of care and identify remaining care gaps. The MQii is designed for hospitals and health systems that have an interest in:

- Transforming quality and performance of malnutrition care delivery through shared learning of real world approaches, best practices, and data; and
- Implementing evidence-based, high-quality, patient-driven malnutrition care to help reduce clinical variation, improve patient safety, and potentially reduce costs and improve patient outcomes.

The Malnutrition Quality Improvement Initiative (MQii) is a project of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Avalere Health, and other stakeholders who provided expert input through a collaborative partnership.

If you would like more information about the MQii and available tools and resources, please visit www.MQii.today. For more information regarding the eCQMs please visit www.eatrightpro.org/eMeasures

Support for the MQii provided by Abbott.

¹ Wells JL and Dumbrell AC. Nutrition and aging: Assessment and treatment of compromised nutritional status in frail elderly patients. *Clin Interv Aging*. 2006; 1(1):67-69.

² Weiss AJ, Fingar KR, Barrett ML, Elixhauser A, Steiner CA, Guenter P, Brown MH. Characteristics of hospital stays involving malnutrition, 2013. HCUP Statistical Brief #210. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Available at: <http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb210-Malnutrition-Hospital-Stays-2013.pdf>.