

December 14, 2020

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Re: Malnutrition in Hospitalized Adults

Dear Dr. Brady,

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (the “Academy”) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality on Malnutrition in Hospitalized Adults, published on October 30, 2020 Representing more than 107,000 registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs), nutrition and dietetic technicians, registered (NDTRs), and advanced-degree nutritionist researchers, the Academy is the largest association of food and nutrition professionals in the United States and is committed to combating malnutrition through the transformative power of food and nutrition. RDNs provide nutritional interventions and coordinate care for patients identified as malnourished in an acute care setting.

The Academy supports the mission of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to produce evidence to make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable, and to work within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and with other partners to make sure that the evidence is understood and used. The Academy has listed below supplemental evidence to further support ARHQ’s systematic review and answer key questions that will aid in the development of quality measures related to malnutrition in hospitalized adults.

I. What is the association between malnutrition and clinical outcomes among hospitalized patients?

1. Tobert CM, Mott SL, Nepple KG. Malnutrition Diagnosis during Adult Inpatient Hospitalizations: Analysis of a Multi-Institutional Collaborative Database of Academic Medical Centers. *J Acad Nutr Diet*. 2018;118(1):125-131. doi:10.1016/j.jand.2016.12.019
2. Lim SL, Ong KCB, Chan YH, Loke WC, Ferguson M, Daniels L. Malnutrition and its impact on cost of hospitalization, length of stay, readmission and 3-year mortality. *Clin Nutr Edinb Scotl*. 2012;31(3):345-350. doi:10.1016/j.clnu.2011.11.001
3. Barker LA, Gout BS, Crowe TC. Hospital Malnutrition: Prevalence, Identification and Impact on Patients and the Healthcare System. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2011;8(2):514-527. doi:10.3390/ijerph8020514
4. Ceniccola GD, Okamura AB, Neta J da SS, et al. Association Between AND-ASPEN Malnutrition Criteria and Hospital Mortality in Critically Ill Trauma Patients: A Prospective Cohort Study. *J Parenter Enter Nutr*. 2020;44(7):1347-1354. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1002/jpen.1795>

5. Guerra RS, Fonseca I, Pichel F, Restivo MT, Amaral TF. Usefulness of six diagnostic and screening measures for undernutrition in predicting length of hospital stay: a comparative analysis. *J Acad Nutr Diet*. 2015;115(6):927-938. doi:10.1016/j.jand.2014.11.015
6. Guerra R, Sousa A, Fonseca I, et al. Comparative analysis of undernutrition screening and diagnostic tools as predictors of hospitalisation costs. *J Hum Nutr Diet*. 2016; 29(2): 165- 173.
7. Hiller LD, Shaw RF, Fabri PJ. Difference in Composite End Point of Readmission and Death Between Malnourished and Non-malnourished Veterans Assessed Using Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics/American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition Clinical Characteristics. *JPEN J Parenter Enteral Nutr*. 2017;41(8):1316-1324. doi:10.1177/0148607116668523
8. Hudson L, Chittams J, Griffith C, Compher C. Malnutrition Identified by Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics/American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition Is Associated with More 30-Day Readmissions, Greater Hospital Mortality, and Longer Hospital Stays: A Retrospective Analysis of Nutrition Assessment Data in a Major Medical Center. *JPEN J Parenter Enteral Nutr*. 2018;42(5):892-897. doi:10.1002/jpen.1021
9. Hiura G, Lebowitz B, Seres DS. Malnutrition Diagnosis in Critically Ill Patients Using 2012 Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics/American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition Standardized Diagnostic Characteristics Is Associated With Longer Hospital and Intensive Care Unit Length of Stay and Increased In-Hospital Mortality. *J Parenter Enteral Nutr*. 2020;44(2):256-264. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1002/jpen.1599>

II. What is the effectiveness of screening or diagnostic assessment for malnutrition among hospitalized adults?

1. Hulst JM, Joosten KFM. Nutrition Screening: Coding after Discharge Underestimates the Prevalence of Undernutrition. *J Acad Nutr Diet*. 2018;118(1):33-36. doi:10.1016/j.jand.2017.05.019
2. Kang MC, Kim JH, Ryu S-W, et al. Prevalence of Malnutrition in Hospitalized Patients: a Multicenter Cross-sectional Study. *J Korean Med Sci*. 2017;33(2). doi:10.3346/jkms.2018.33.e10
3. Gout BS, Barker LA, Crowe TC. Malnutrition identification, diagnosis and dietetic referrals: Are we doing a good enough job? *Nutr Diet*. 2009;66(4):206-211. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1747-0080.2009.01372.x>
4. da Silva Fink J, Daniel de Mello P, Daniel de Mello E. Subjective global assessment of nutritional status – A systematic review of the literature. *Clin Nutr*. 2015; 34(5):785-792. doi:10.1016/j.clnu.2014.12.014
5. Hipskind P, Rath M, JeVenn A, et al. Correlation of New Criteria for Malnutrition Assessment in Hospitalized Patients: AND-ASPEN Versus SGA. *J Am Coll Nutr*. 2020;39(6):518-527. doi:10.1080/07315724.2019.1699476
6. BURGEL CF, TEIXEIRA PP, LEITES GM, et al. Concurrent and Predictive Validity of AND- ASPEN Malnutrition Consensus Is Satisfactory in Hospitalized Patients: A Longitudinal Study. *J Parenter Enteral Nutr*. 2020; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1002/jpen.1980> (online ahead of print).
7. Hand RK, Murphy WJ, Field LB, et al. Validation of the Academy/A.S.P.E.N. Malnutrition Clinical Characteristics. *J Acad Nutr Diet*. 2016;116(5):856-864. doi:10.1016/j.jand.2016.01.018
8. Mordarski BA, Hand RK, Wolff J, Steiber AL. Increased Knowledge, Self-Reported Comfort, and Malnutrition Diagnosis and Reimbursement as a Result of the Nutrition- Focused Physical Exam

Hands-On Training Workshop. *J Acad Nutr Diet*. 2017;117(11):1822-1828.

doi:10.1016/j.jand.2017.06.362

9. Ferguson M, Capra S, Bauer J, Banks M. Development of a valid and reliable malnutrition screening tool for adult acute hospital patients. *Nutrition*. 1999;15(6):458-464.
doi:10.1016/S0899-9007(99)00084-2
10. Gupta D, Lis CG, Dahlk SL, et al. The relationship between bioelectrical impedance phase angle and subjective global assessment in advanced colorectal cancer. *Nutr J*. 2008;7(1):19.
doi:10.1186/1475-2891-7-19
11. Mosquera C, Koutlas N, Edwards K, Strickland A, Vohra N, Zervos E, Fitzgerald T. Impact of Malnutrition on Gastrointestinal Patients. *Journal of Surgical Research*. September 2016;(205) 95-101

Conclusion

The Academy appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality on Malnutrition in Hospitalized Adults. Please contact either Jeanne Blankenship by telephone at 312-899-1730 or by email at jblankenship@eatright.org or Hannah Martin by telephone at 202-775-8277 x6006 or by email at hmartin@eatright.org with any questions or requests for additional information.

Sincerely,



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Vice President, Policy Initiatives and Advocacy
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Hannah Martin, MPH, RDN
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