



## PHYSICIAN SURVEY

The Canadian Malnutrition Task Force (CMTF) conducted a national study from 2010 – 2013 to determine the prevalence of malnutrition in Canadian hospitals. The following survey, used to determine physicians' level of knowledge, attitudes and practices with respect to nutrition in hospitalized patients, was used in this study. Minor adaptations were made to the content valid, published version (Rasmussen HH, Kondrup J, Ladefoged K, Staun M. Clinical nutrition in Danish hospitals: a questionnaire-based investigation among doctors and nurses. *Clin Nutr.* 1999; 18: 153-158). This version has been reviewed by the inter-disciplinary Education and Practice group of the CMTF for content validity.

This survey is made available by CMTF for use by hospitals in their own research or quality improvement initiatives. Permission has been provided by the author for CMTF to disseminate this questionnaire for these purposes (H.H. Rasmussen, June 24, 2014, personal communication to D. Duerksen).

This survey will provide our hospital with the necessary information required to identify training needs and evaluate training efforts.

### **Instructions:**

Please complete the following questions, providing a single answer unless instructed otherwise. If you work on more than one hospital unit, please consider your primary unit, when answering questions.

Please return this survey to:

## Information About You

**1. Which type of hospital unit do you currently working in?** *(Please list; if you work on multiple units, select your PRIMARY unit):*

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**2. You are a(n):**

- Attending physician
- Resident
- Fellow

**3. How many years you have been practicing:**

- < 2 years
- 2-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 10 + years

## Evaluation of Patients' Nutritional Status

1. Please respond to the statements below concerning practices on your hospital units. Check one column for each statement.

| On my hospital unit(s)...  | No | Yes, in selected patients (<50%) | Yes, in selected patients (>50%) | Yes, in all patients | Don't know |
|--|----|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Patients are screened for nutrition risk upon admission to the hospital  |    |                                  |                                  |                      |            |
| Patients who are screened to be at risk undergo subjective global assessment (SGA) to determine their nutritional status |    |                                  |                                  |                      |            |
| Ongoing evaluation of the patient's nutritional status/intake <u>during hospitalization</u> is standard procedure        |    |                                  |                                  |                      |            |
| All patients have their nutritional status evaluated on discharge  |    |                                  |                                  |                      |            |
| The patient's nutritional problems are routinely taken into account on unit rounds                                       |    |                                  |                                  |                      |            |
| Patients are weighed upon admission  |    |                                  |                                  |                      |            |
| Patients are weighed at regular intervals during hospitalization   |    |                                  |                                  |                      |            |
| Patients are routinely weighed upon discharge  |    |                                  |                                  |                      |            |

2. Please respond to the statements below concerning patients who are **AT NUTRITIONAL RISK** on your hospital unit(s). Check one box for each statement.

| On my hospital unit(s)...   | No | Yes, in selected patients (<50%) | Yes, in selected patients (>50%) | Yes, in all patients | Don't know |
|---|----|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Measurement of food intake is undertaken in admitted patients at nutritional risk                           |    |                                  |                                  |                      |            |
| At risk patients are continuously monitored to determine if they are meeting their food intake requirements |    |                                  |                                  |                      |            |
| A nutritional care plan is included in the patient records  |    |                                  |                                  |                      |            |

3a. Please respond to the following statements concerning what you believe **OUGHT** to be standard practice on your unit(s): Check one box on each line.

| All patients...   | Entirely agree | Largely agree | Largely disagree | Entirely disagree | Don't know |
|---|----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Ought to be screened for nutrition risk upon admission  |                |               |                  |                   |            |
| Ought to have an evaluation of their nutritional status <u>on admission</u>   |                |               |                  |                   |            |
| Ought to have an evaluation of their nutritional status at least once a week <u>during hospitalization</u>                        |                |               |                  |                   |            |
| Ought to have an evaluation of their nutritional status <u>on discharge</u>   |                |               |                  |                   |            |
| That have compromised nutritional status and/or a reduced food intake, will have a nutritional care plan initiated within 24hours |                |               |                  |                   |            |

**3b. Please respond to the following statements concerning what you believe **OUGHT** to be standard practice on your primary unit(s):** *Check one box for each statement.*

|   | Entirely agree | Largely agree | Largely disagree | Entirely disagree | Don't know |
|---|----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|------------|
| The nutritional problems of admitted patients should routinely be taken into account on unit rounds                       |                |               |                  |                   |            |
| All patients should be weighed on admission   |                |               |                  |                   |            |
| Patients should be weighed at fixed intervals during admission  |                |               |                  |                   |            |
| Patients should be weighed on discharge   |                |               |                  |                   |            |
| There should be daily checks of whether patients requiring special nutritional treatment are achieving their requirements |                |               |                  |                   |            |
| All patients should have their food intake monitored at least every few days  |                |               |                  |                   |            |

### Allocation of Responsibility on the Unit

**4. Have your hospital units instituted any of the following?** *Check one box for each statement.*

|   | Yes | No | Don't know |
|---|-----|----|------------|
| Established an interdisciplinary nutrition team   |     |    |            |
| Appointed one or more resource persons with special knowledge of and interest in clinical nutrition   |     |    |            |
| Produced or use guidelines/protocols on how patients with nutritional therapy needs can be identified |     |    |            |
| Produced or use guidelines/protocols on tube feeding  |     |    |            |
| Produced or use guidelines/protocols on parenteral nutrition  |     |    |            |
| Defined the scope of the responsibility of dietitians   |     |    |            |
| Provided education for medical staff in nutrition care  |     |    |            |
| Provided education for nursing staff in nutrition care  |     |    |            |

**5. Please answer the following questions** (Check one box for each question/statement)

|   | Yes | Yes, to some extent | No | Don't know |
|---|-----|---------------------|----|------------|
| Do you have dietitians who are available for consultation?  |     |                     |    |            |
| Do the dietitians regularly take part in one or more nursing, medical or inter-disciplinary rounds on the unit? |     |                     |    |            |
| Is it your opinion that it would be helpful to use dietitians more extensively than you do at present?          |     |                     |    |            |

**6. Check the **THREE** most **IMPORTANT** reasons why patients may get insufficient nutrition support (e.g., artificial nutrition, tube feeding) on your hospital unit**

- Unaware of the importance of nutrition
- Malnourished individuals not identified
- Indifference
- Lack of documentation
- Too many complications
- No definition of responsibility
- Time-consuming
- Technically difficult
- Hard to identify the relevant malnourished patients
- Too expensive
- Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Check the most **IMPORTANT** reasons why patients may not eat on your hospital unit:**

|  | Rarely a problem | Sometimes a problem | Commonly a problem |
|--|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Tray delivery is not coordinated between Food Services and Nursing |                  |                     |                    |
| Appearance, taste, or aroma of food is poor                        |                  |                     |                    |
| Food/fluid temperature is inappropriate                            |                  |                     |                    |
| Patients are not given enough time to eat                          |                  |                     |                    |
| Patient meals are interrupted by procedures or medical care        |                  |                     |                    |
| Patients are not properly positioned to eat                        |                  |                     |                    |
| Patients are not able to feed self or open packages                |                  |                     |                    |
| Patients' pain and symptoms are not well managed                   |                  |                     |                    |

|                                     | Rarely a problem | Sometimes a problem | Commonly a problem |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Insufficient assistance with eating |                  |                     |                    |

**8. How good is your knowledge of....?** (Check one box on the scale from 1 to 10, where 1 = inadequate knowledge and 10 = very good knowledge)

|  | Inadequate knowledge |   |   |   |   | Very good knowledge |   |   |   |    |
|--|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---------------------|---|---|---|----|
|  | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6                   | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| The treatment of malnourished patients |                      |   |   |   |   |                     |   |   |   |    |

**9. How interested are you in....?** (Check one box on the scale from 1 to 10, where 1 =low interest and 10 = very interested)

|  | Low interest |   |   |   |   | Great interest |   |   |   |    |
|--|--------------|---|---|---|---|----------------|---|---|---|----|
|  | 1            | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6              | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| The treatment of malnourished patients |              |   |   |   |   |                |   |   |   |    |

**10. To what extent do you find it relevant for you to be well informed about...?** (Check one box on the scale from 1 to 10, where 1 =not relevant and 10 = very relevant)

|  | Not relevant |   |   |   |   | Very relevant |   |   |   |    |
|--|--------------|---|---|---|---|---------------|---|---|---|----|
|  | 1            | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6             | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| The treatment of malnourished patients |              |   |   |   |   |               |   |   |   |    |

Please provide any further comments with respect to nutrition care on this unit.

Thank You!