Physician Perceptions of Nutrition Care

Study Title

Physicians’ perceptions regarding the detection and management of malnutrition in Canadian hospitals: Results of a Canadian Malnutrition Task Force Survey

The Study

Surveys were filled out by physicians at 18 Canadian hospitals to collect their thoughts about nutrition care of patients in hospitals. Their answers were then analyzed for content according to hospital and unit type. 428 total surveys were completed by physicians and then analyzed by the study team.

What Was Found

- Physicians feel that there is a difference between what is being done to care for hospital patient malnutrition and the best known standard for care.
- Physicians felt that the health care team’s knowledge could be improved. They believed that this was important because although their nutrition knowledge is limited, physicians know that prevention of hospital-associated malnutrition is an important part of the care which they provide.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage in Hospital Stay</th>
<th>Percentage of Physicians Who Believe Nutritional Assessment Should Be Done at This Point</th>
<th>Is Actually Done at This Point</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At Admission</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During Stay</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When Discharged</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Physician interest in nutrition is greater than their knowledge when self-assessed on a scale of 1 to 10.

What Can Be Done

1. A complete team of professionals is needed to best treat in-hospital malnutrition.
2. Further education targeted at physicians to improve their nutrition knowledge.

Where to Find the Full Article:

http://pen.sagepub.com/content/39/4/410


Authors