

OPTIMISING NUTRITIONAL CARE IN OLDER PEOPLE

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Chair UK panel - Managing Adult Disease-Related Malnutrition in the Community

Geriatric Medicine Webinar November 2021

DISCLOSURES

- Unrestricted educational grant provided by Nutricia Medical to support the work of the National panel on 'Managing Adult Malnutrition in the Community'
- Honoraria received from Fresenius-Kabi, Nutricia, Abbott, Danone, Nestle for presentations within scientific symposia or for Charing / Facilitating educational events

A FLAVOUR OF WHAT IS TO COME....

The role of diet in ageing

The prevalence, impact and relationship between malnutrition, frailty and sarcopenia

Malnutrition - why older people and those with chronic disease are vulnerable

Understand how to screen for malnutrition risk and complete a nutrition assessment

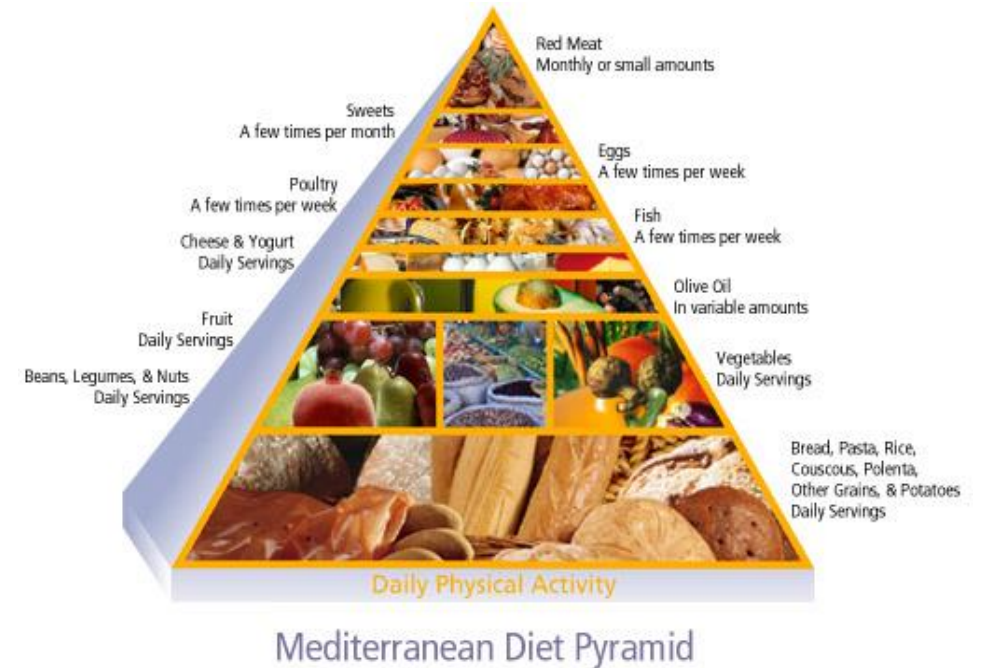
Provide insights into practical based strategies for treatment

Encourage action to integrate nutrition into pathways of care including proactive identification and management of malnutrition

THE ROLE OF DIET QUALITY IN HEALTHY AGEING

n= 1300

- Higher diet quality was prospectively associated with better quality of life and functional ability - observed over 5 years, independent of potential confounders.
- Recommendations: Targeted intervention strategies that modify dietary practices of the ageing population have the capacity to preserve general well-being and physical functioning or delay deterioration.



Gopinath et al, **2014** J Acad Nutr Diet. 2014;114:220-229.

FOOD IS MORE THAN NUTRIENTS

'Nutrition and its effective use is such an important part of the care pathway, It is integral to how we live, each and every day, from sustenance to companionship'

John Davies - Chief Exec, Dorothy House Hospice





Good nutrition and social interactions can maintain independence, reduce isolation and improve cognition.

1. Shatenstein et al, 2012 Experimental Gerontology
2. Malnutrition Task Force <http://www.malnutritiontaskforce.org.uk>

COMMUNITY MEAL SERVICES (HERTFORDSHIRE STUDY) - PROVIDING MORE THAN FOOD

Client benefits

- ✓ improved health
- ✓ felt happier
- ✓ felt safer
- ✓ more secure
- ✓ increased independence
- ✓ stayed out of residential care

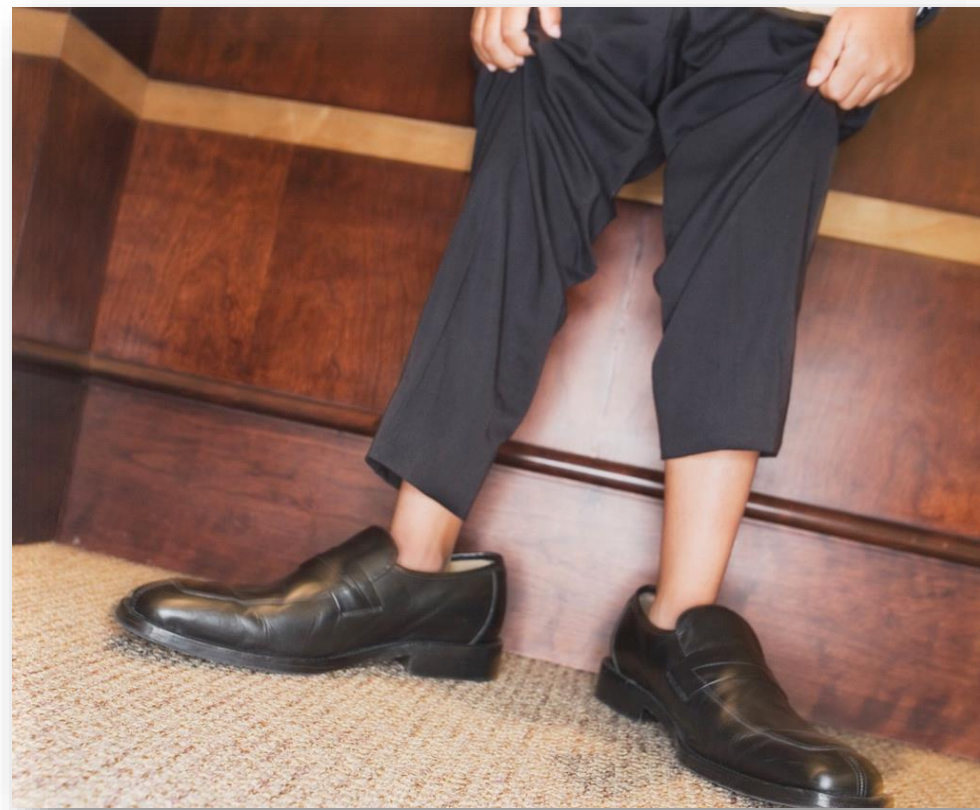
Carer benefits

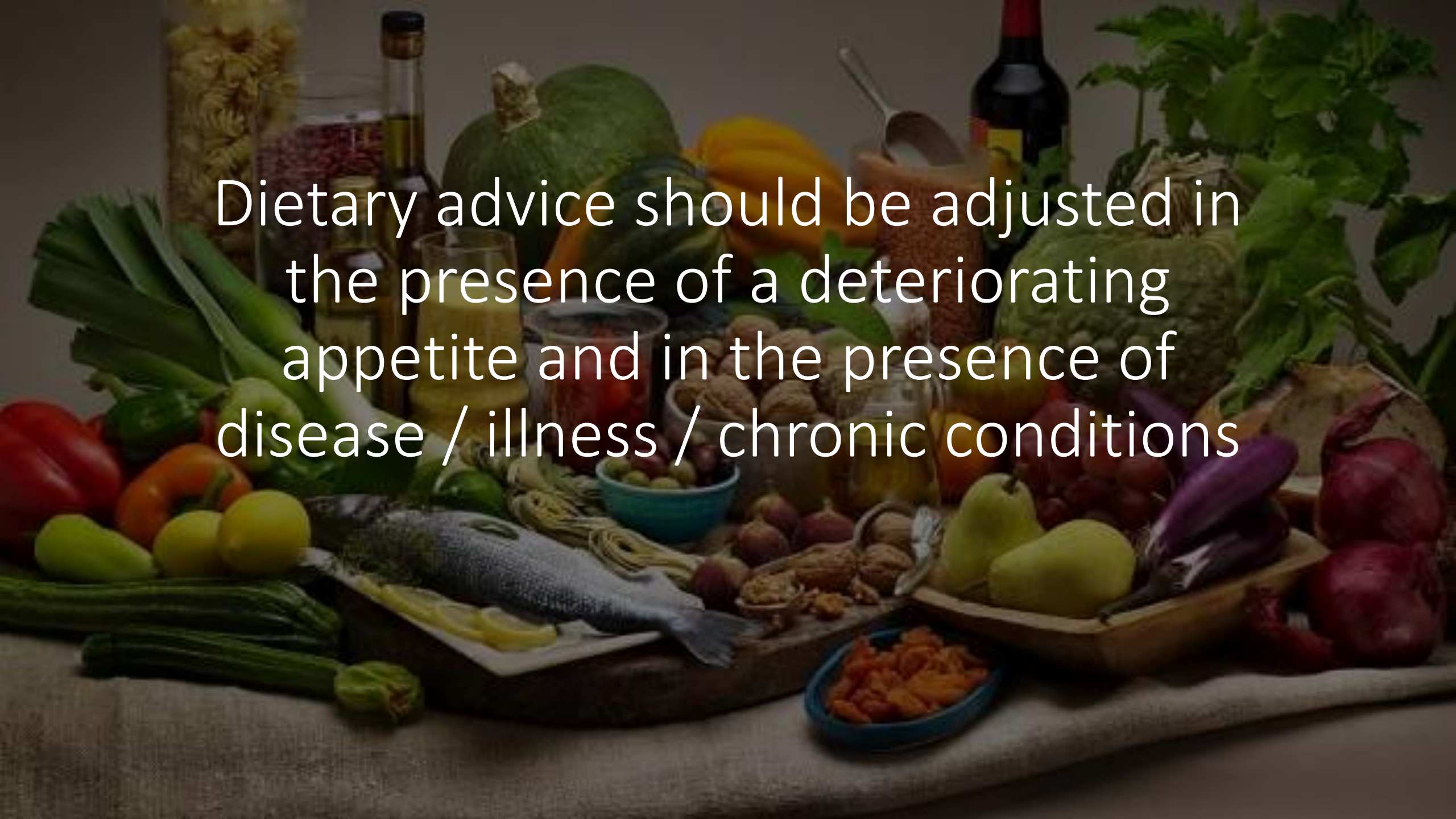
- ✓ increased ability to work
- ✓ more leisure time
- ✓ less stress
- ✓ improved relationships with their own family and the person they care for.

ROI - The analysis calculated that, for every £1 invested in HCM, the likely social value created through these outcomes is ~ £5.28 (range from £4.42 to £6.10)

DO OLDER PEOPLE RECEIVE THE RIGHT MESSAGES ON DIET & NUTRITION?

- Good nutrition can promote healthy ageing and help to combat chronic disease
- Multimorbidity is a growing issue
- Older people are at risk of under-nutrition, this can be a cause and a consequence of illness.
- Older people services and partner agencies with a remit for older people's health should be provided appropriate messages concerning nutrition in later life e.g. putting public health messages into context



A still life arrangement of various fresh foods including vegetables, fruits, fish, and oils. The scene is set on a light-colored, textured surface. In the foreground, there's a whole fish on a white plate with lemon slices. To the left, there are green cucumbers, yellow lemons, and red and orange bell peppers. In the center, there are several small bowls containing nuts and dried fruits. To the right, there are green pears, purple eggplants, and red onions. In the background, there are more vegetables like green leafy herbs, a yellow bell pepper, and a bottle of olive oil. The overall lighting is soft and natural, highlighting the textures and colors of the ingredients.

Dietary advice should be adjusted in the presence of a deteriorating appetite and in the presence of disease / illness / chronic conditions



**MALNUTRITION
(UNDERNUTRITION), FRAILTY,
SARCOPENIA**

DEFINITIONS

Malnutrition

A state of nutrition in which a deficiency, excess or imbalance of energy, protein, and other nutrients causes measurable **adverse effects** on tissue/body **form** (body shape, size, and composition) and **function**, and **clinical outcome**.¹

Frailty

A clinically recognisable state of increased vulnerability resulting from aging-associated decline in reserve and function across multiple physiologic systems such that the ability to cope with everyday or acute stressors is compromised.²

1. Elia M. Detection and management of undernutrition in the community. A report by The Malnutrition Advisory Group (A standing committee of The British Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition). 2000. Maidenhead, BAPEN.
2. Qian-Li Xue The Frailty Syndrome: Definition and Natural History Clin Geriatr Med. 2011 February ; 27(1): 1–15. doi:10.1016/j.cger.2010.08.009.

PREVALENCE OF MALNUTRITION

Refs: Russell C, Elia M. Nutrition screening survey and audit of adults on admission to hospitals, care homes and mental health units. 2011. Redditch, BAPEN.

1 in 10 older people*



are suffering from or are at risk of

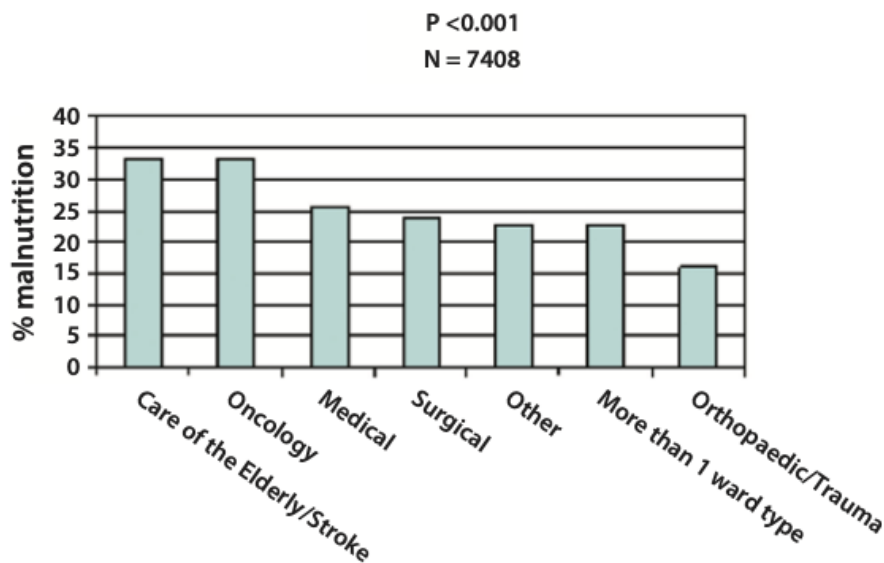
malnutrition



www.smallappetite.org.uk

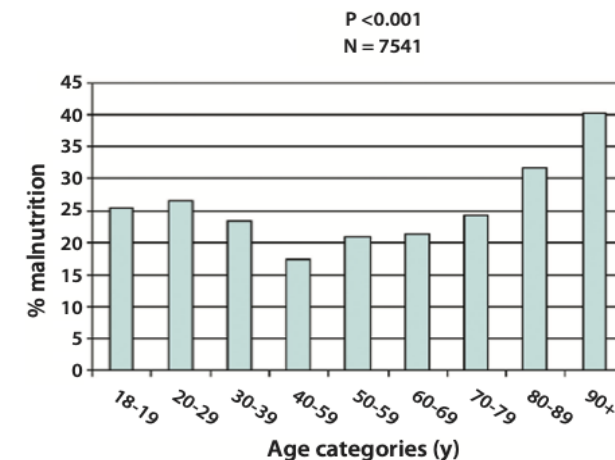
*over 65 in England and Wales (2009)

'MALNUTRITION' RISK ACCORDING TO TYPE OF WARD

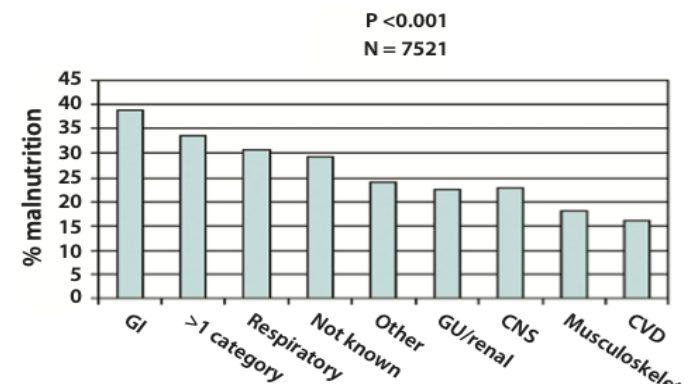


'Malnutrition' risk according to age

A substantial malnutrition risk was present at all ages.



'Malnutrition' according to diagnostic category



A SIZEABLE PROBLEM - DIETITIANS CAN'T TACKLE IT ALONE

- There are >3 million people malnourished or at risk of malnutrition in the UK, 93% are in the community^{1,2}
- Dietitians (n=11,000) are uniquely placed to manage malnutrition but waiting times may be up to 18 weeks in the community²

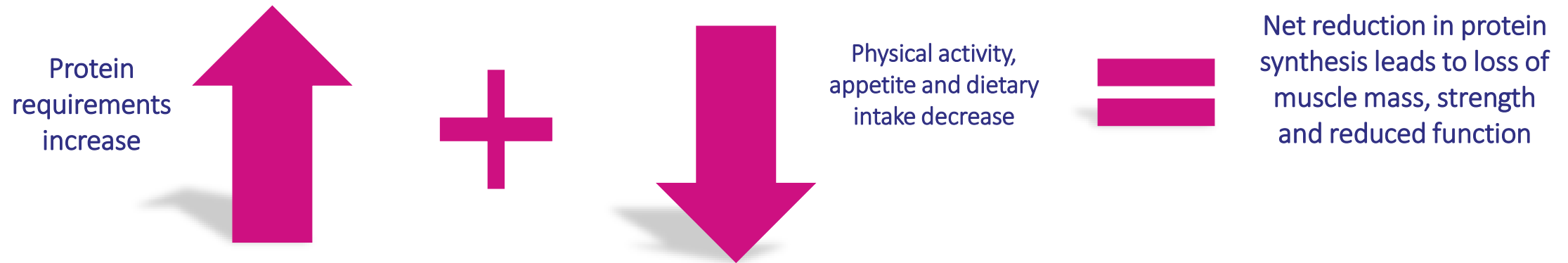


1. Elia M and Russell CA. Combating Malnutrition: Recommendations for Action. Report from the advisory group on malnutrition, led by BAPEN. 2009.
2. Stratton et al. Managing malnutrition to improve lives and save money. BAPEN Report. 2018.
3. Guide to NHS waiting times in England. 2019. - <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/hospitals/guide-to-nhs-waiting-times-in-england/>

FRAILTY AND MALNUTRITION - OVERLAPPING SYNDROMES SHARING CENTRAL FEATURES^{1,2,3}

64% of frail elderly adults are malnourished, compared with just 2% of fit elderly adults.

As patients age:⁴



Central features of weight loss, reduced muscle mass, strength and function¹

1. Artaza-Artabe et al *Maturitas*, 2016; 93, 89–99

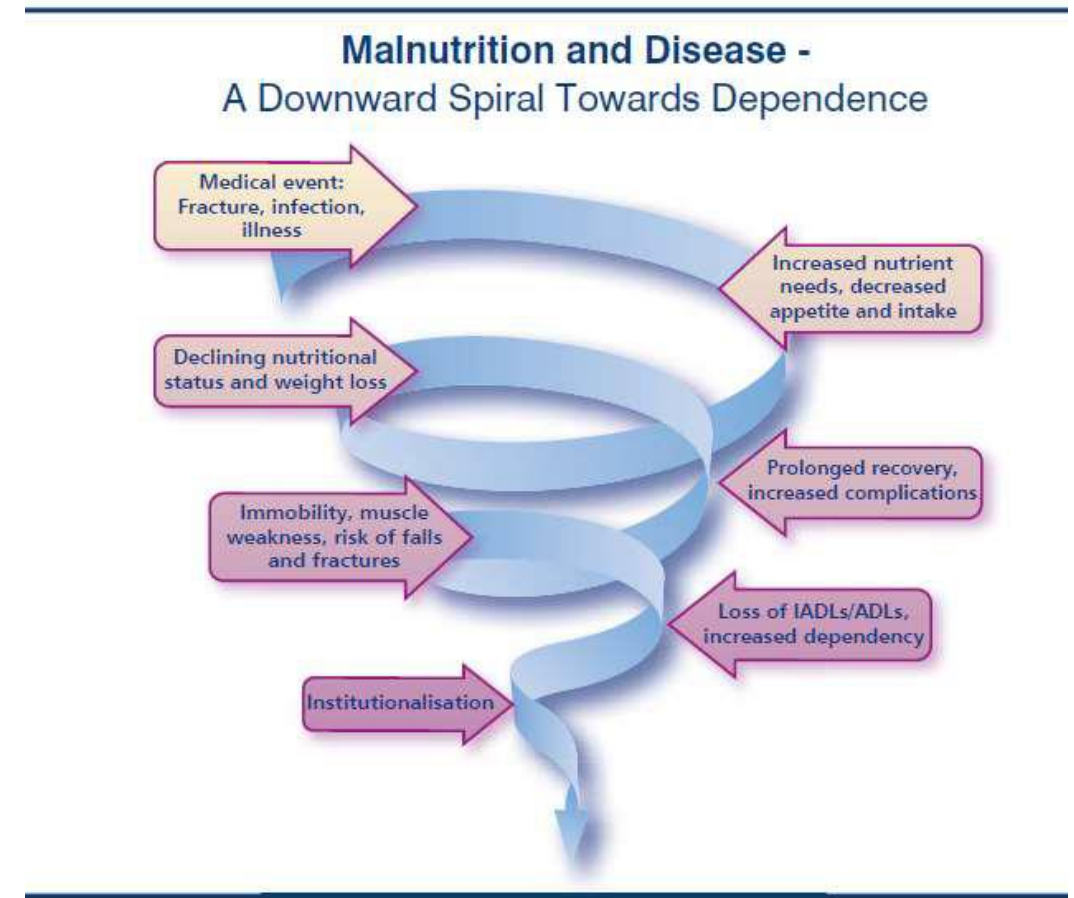
2. Boulos C, et al. Malnutrition and frailty in community dwelling older adults living in a rural setting. *Clinical Nutrition*. 2016;35(1);138-143

3. Laur CV et al. Malnutrition or frailty? Overlap and evidence gaps in the diagnosis and treatment of frailty and malnutrition. *Applied Physiology, Nutrition, and Metabolism*. 2017;42(5);449-458.

4. Bauer et al. Evidence-Based Recommendations for Optimal Dietary Protein Intake in Older People: A Position Paper From the PROT-AGE Study Group. *JAMDA*. 2013;14:542-559

WHY IS MALNUTRITION AND FRAILITY SO PREVALENT IN THE PRESENCE OF DISEASE AND IN AGEING?

- Disease itself may interrupt or reduce intake
- Intake may be inadequate compared to requirements (malabsorption, increased energy expenditure)
- Anorexia / loss of appetite occurs in ageing and in disease
- The ability to source and prepare meals may diminish (including the motivation)
- Protein requirements increase at a time intake often declines



SARCOPENIA – RISING UP THE AGENDA

- Sarcopenia is a condition characterised by loss of muscle mass and strength
- Sarcopenia after injury or insult e.g. stroke, is multifactorial:
 - Systemic inflammatory response causes both catabolism and degradation of fat-free body mass, namely muscle tissue/fats
 - Further compounded by immobility, bedrest, insulin resistance associated with diabetes
- Ten days' bed rest in 'healthy adults' leads to:
 - 30% reduction in muscle protein synthesis
 - 6% reduction in leg mass
 - 16% reduction in muscle strength



FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO DEVELOPMENT OF AND INDICATIVE OF PRESENCE OF MALNUTRITION

Chronic disease and increasing age

Loneliness, isolation, bereavement

Reduced appetite / interest in food

Only eating part of meals

Limited diet
Low vitamin and mineral status

Swallowing problems

Diarrhoea or vomiting

Frailty

Ill-fitting dentures / problems with chewing or swallowing

Recurrent infections

Delayed wound healing / thin, fragile skin

Frequent falling

Low BMI / looking visibly thin / bones visible, loose clothing)

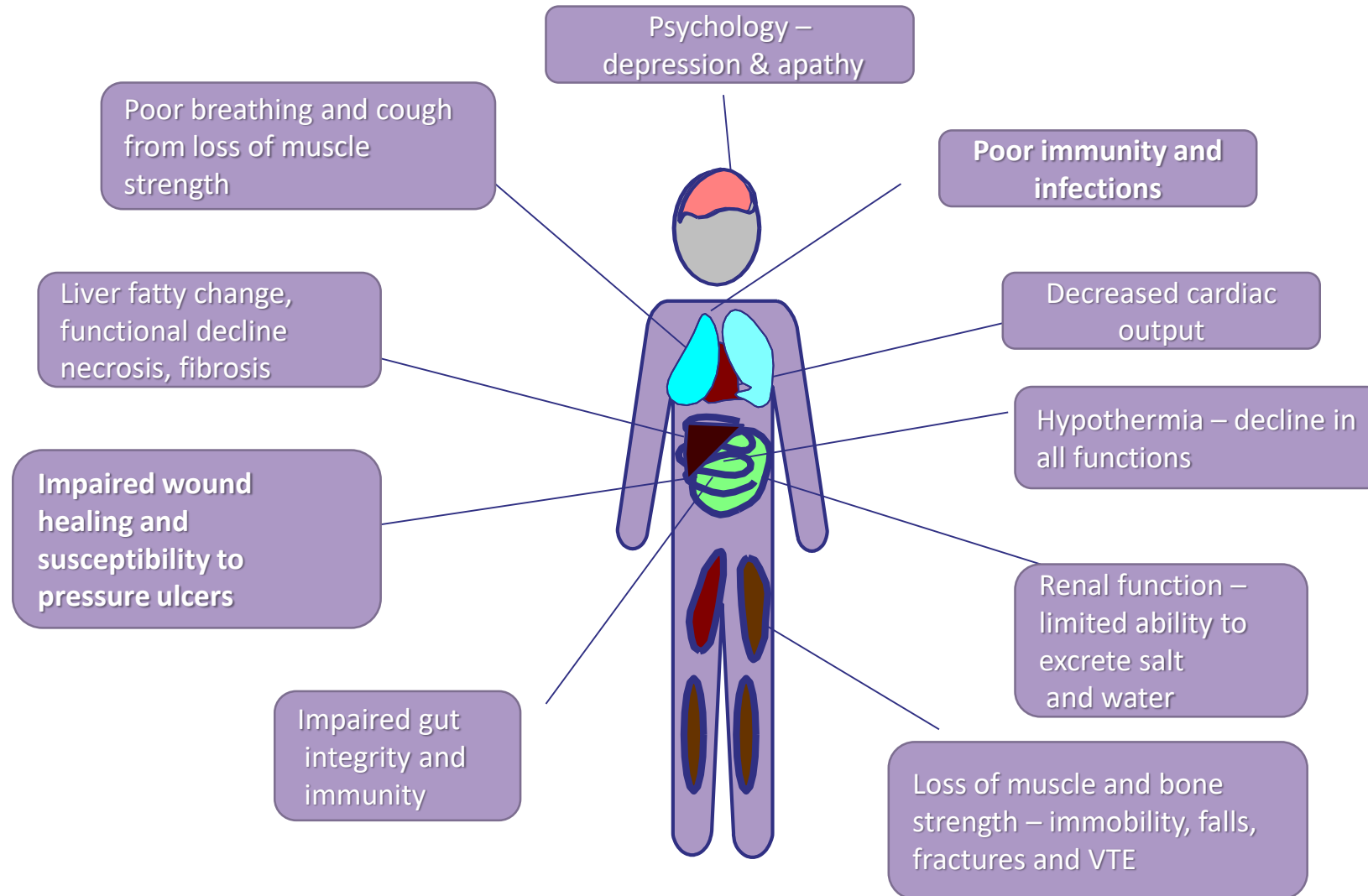
Feeling tired / cold / low mood

Dental issues



CONSEQUENCES OF MALNUTRITION

ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF MALNUTRITION CAN OCCUR WITHIN DAYS



Ref: Saunders J ,
Smith T. Malnutrition
Causes and
Consequences.
Clinical Medicine
2010 6:624-627

ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF MALNUTRITION

Annual cost per malnourished subject

£7,408

Annual cost per non-malnourished subject

£2,155

Scaled up annual cost of malnutrition across the UK

£23.5 bn



COSTS INCURRED AS A CONSEQUENCE OF MALNUTRITION ARE DUE TO:

- Poor wound healing
- Increased susceptibility to infection
- Impaired mental and physical function
- Reduced activities of daily living (ADL)
- Increased readmissions
- More GP visits
- Increased length of hospital stay (> 30%)
- Greater likelihood of admission to care homes

Pirlich M et al C et al. Clin Nutr 2006; 25(4):563-572; Cansado P, Ravasco P, Camilo M. J Nutr Health Aging 2009; 13(2):159-164; de LD, Lopez GA. Eur J Intern Med 2006; 17(8):556-560; Planas M et al , Clin Nutr 2004; 23(5):1016-1024; Elia M, Stratton RJ, Russell C, Green CJ, Pang F. The cost of disease-related malnutrition in the UK and economic considerations for the use of oral nutritional supplements (ONS) in adults. 2005. Redditch, BAPEN; Elia M and NIHR (2015) Economic report



**WHERE DO WE FOCUS OUR
EFFORTS?**

IS TACKLING MALNUTRITION IN HOSPITAL ALONE EFFECTIVE?



Average length of stay for all causes in the **UK** = 6 days

Source: OECD (2021), Length of hospital stay (indicator). doi: [10.1787/8dda6b7a-en](https://doi.org/10.1787/8dda6b7a-en)
(Accessed on 03 November 2021)

INTAKES OF ENERGY AND PROTEIN ON A HOSPITAL WARD (STROKE & FALLS)



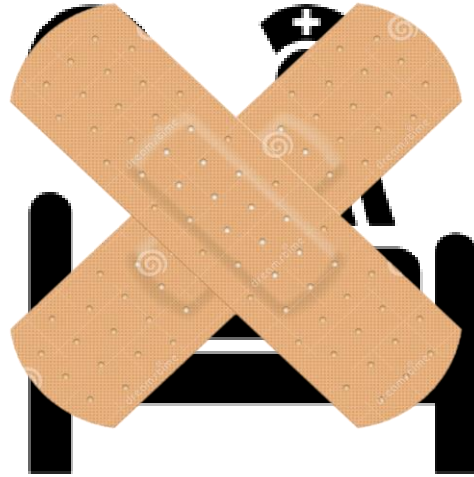
Group receiving ONS	Mean energy diet alone (kcal)	Mean energy provided by ONS (kcal)	Mean total daily energy consumed (kcal)
Normal diet	982	264	1,245
Texture-modified	703	295	998



Mean daily protein intake <60% of estimated requirements

Reference: Wright, et al. J Hum Nutr Diet. 2005; 18: 213-9.

93% OF MALNUTRITION EXISTS IN THE COMMUNITY.
IF WE FOCUS OUR ENERGY TACKLING IT IN HOSPITALS...

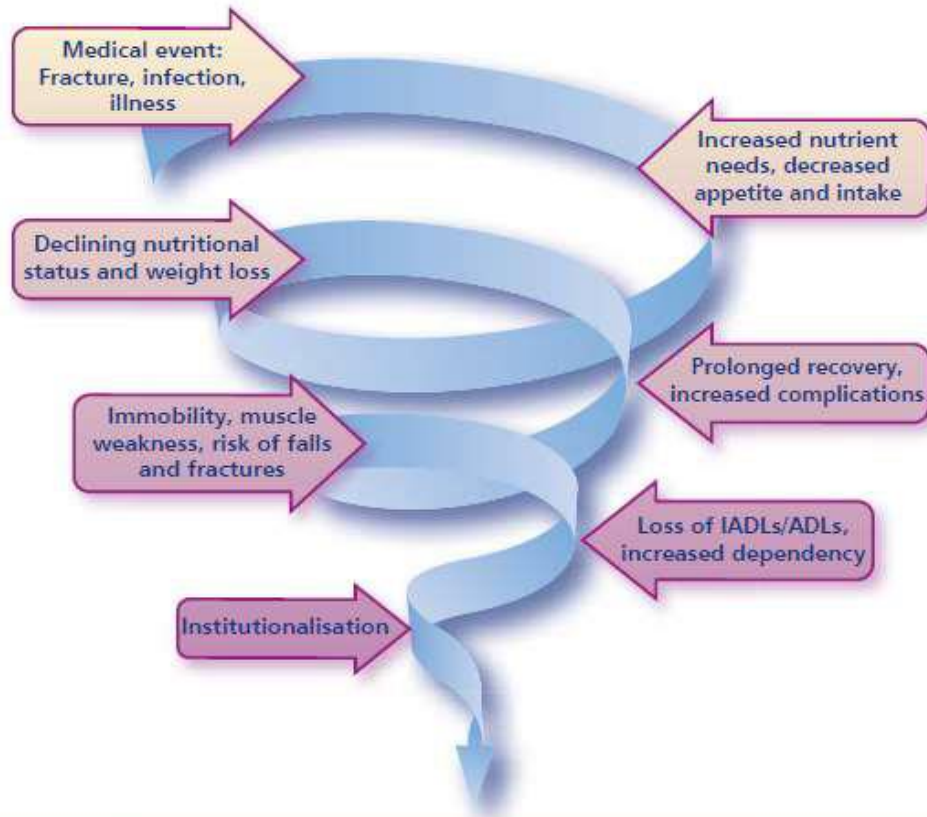


...we won't fix the problem.

- Malnutrition develops insidiously in the community for many weeks before hospital admission.
- Stopping nutrition support at discharge risks prematurely discontinuing care before anabolic phase of recovery reached
- Nutrition rehabilitation may be required for months beyond the hospital episode.

PLUS...THERE IS A TREND TO MANAGE MANY LONG-TERM CONDITIONS IN PRIMARY CARE

Malnutrition and Disease - A Downward Spiral Towards Dependence



- Proactive management of malnutrition in primary care including dietary advice and appropriate ONS prescribing according to risk and patient need could help save ~£123k per 100,000 people each year^{1,3}

1. Elia M and Russell CA. Combating Malnutrition: Recommendations for Action. Report from the advisory group on malnutrition, led by BAPEN. 2009. 2. Guide to NHS waiting times in England. 2019. - <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/hospitals/guide-to-nhs-waiting-times-in-england/>. 3. Stratton et al. Managing malnutrition to improve lives and save money. BAPEN Report. 2018.



**WHAT CAN YOU DO OR
ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO?**

As patients transition from one care setting to another, update and communicate care plans and promote the role of nutritional care



RECOGNISE AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES WANT TO KNOW ABOUT DIET AND NUTRITION

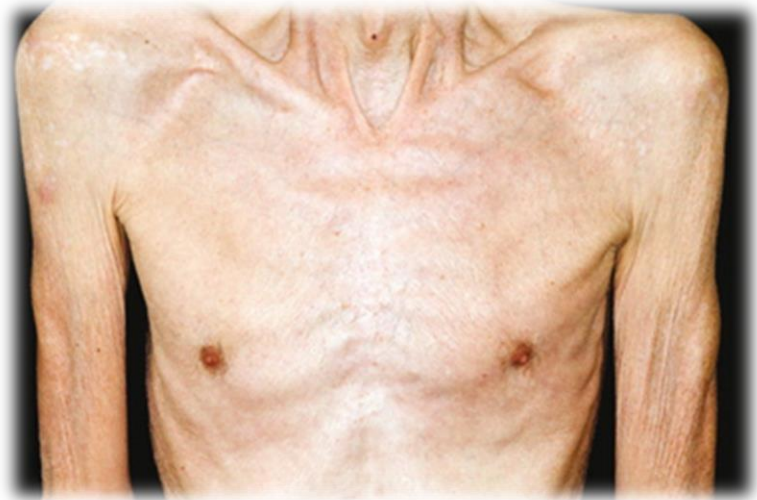
Patients Association /GOV.UK research 2011
Holdoway A (2020) Doctoral Thesis. University of Bath.

NUTRITION SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT



CAN WE RELY ON OBSERVATION ONLY? LOOKS CAN BE DECEPTIVE

Cachectic



Overweight but sarcopenic

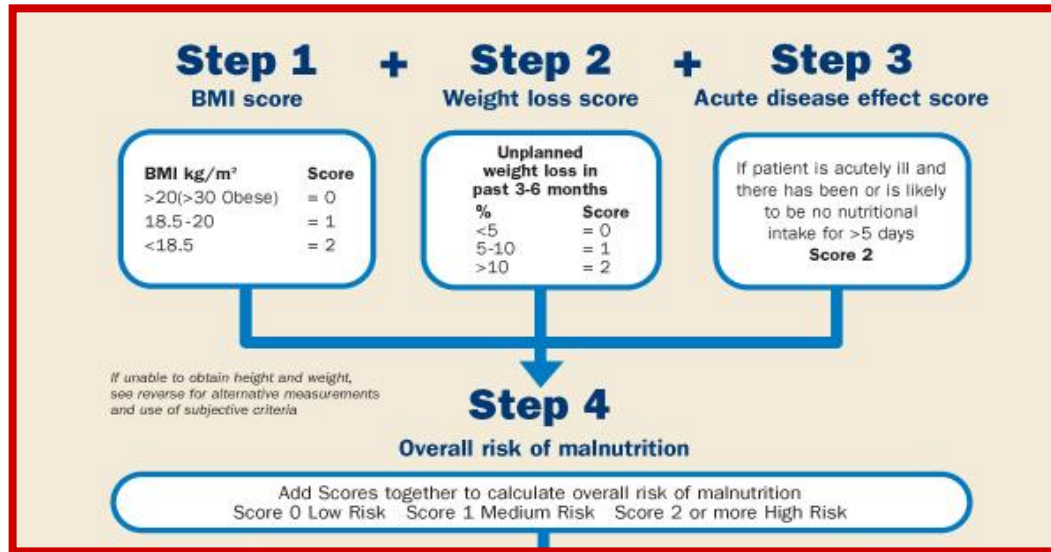


A high BMI can mask malnutrition

Validated screening tools should be utilised

Screening should be followed by assessment in those 'at risk'

MALNUTRITION SCREENING



NICE CG32 (2006) recommends:

- people in care settings (including inpatients, outpatients, care homes and GP surgeries) are screened for the risk of malnutrition using a validated screening tool

and NICE QS24 (2012) emphasises the need for all care services to:

- take responsibility for the identification of people at risk of malnutrition
- provide nutritional support for everyone who needs it
- take an integrated approach to the provision of services

SCREENING CATEGORISES PATIENTS ACCORDING TO RISK
- LOW RISK MEDIUM RISK HIGH RISK -

Self screening and self management: <https://www.malnutritionselfscreening.org/>
<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-weight/bmi-calculator/>
<https://www.patients-association.org.uk/patients-association-nutrition-checklist-toolkit>

ASSESSING NUTRITIONAL
STATUS & FUNCTION-
INITIATING A
CONVERSATION ABOUT
NUTRITION (REMOTE
CONSULTATIONS MAY RELY
ON SELF-REPORTED OR
SUBJECTIVE MEASURES)

- **Useful questions to ask (can be done remotely):**
 - Current weight? Usual weight? Height (use recall)?
 - Has weight changed in the last few weeks or months? How are your clothes and jewellery (rings/watches) fitting?
 - How is your appetite lately? What foods are you managing? Do you need help to shop and prepare meals?
 - What is your patient's function / activities of daily living and has that changed, consider using frailty score e.g. SARC-F, functional tests e.g. sit to stand / timed get up and go / walking tests
 - Patient / carer concerns
 - Asking about factors that indicate risk.....

Useful links guiding use of subjective criteria in assessing malnutrition risk

- Patients Association checklist <https://www.patients-association.org.uk/patients-association-nutrition-checklist-toolkit>
- BAPEN MAG <https://www.bapen.org.uk/pdfs/covid-19/covid-mag-update-may-2020.pdf>

WHAT NEEDS TO BE ON YOUR RADAR AS AN INDICATOR OF MALNUTRITION RISK

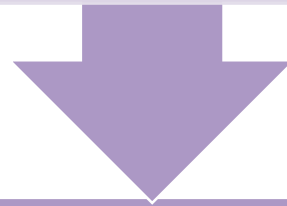
Reduced appetite / interest in food	Only eating part of meals	Unintended weight loss	Low BMI / looking visibly thin (e.g. bones visible, sunken eyes)	Low vitamin and mineral status
Chronic disease and increasing age	Swallowing problems	Diarrhoea or vomiting	Frailty	Loose clothing
Ill-fitting dentures / problems with chewing or swallowing	Recurrent infections	Delayed wound healing / thin, fragile skin	Frequent falling	Feeling tired / cold / low mood

KEY POINT: SCREENING IS THE STARTING POINT

IN THOSE IDENTIFIED AT MEDIUM OR HIGH RISK FOLLOW WITH

An **Assessment** – to establish the causes of malnutrition and contributory factors that could be treated

Consider who in the MDT might be best placed to do this – practice based pharmacists, practice nurse, district nurse, dietitians, care home staff



Create a **care plan** that is achievable and acceptable by the patient (and carers) and includes mutually agreed goals

A DETAILED NUTRITION / DIETETIC ASSESSMENT SHOULD COMPRISE CLINICAL HISTORY, PRESENCE OF DISEASE, WEIGHT CHANGE OVER TIME INCLUDING UNINTENTIONAL LOSS, DIET RECALL, MAKING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PROBLEMS & SYMPTOMS.

COMBINED IT DETERMINES PRESENCE OF MALNUTRITION AND FACILITATES THE CREATION OF AN INDIVIDUALISED CARE PLAN



MANAGEMENT OF DISEASE-RELATED MALNUTRITION

Determine aims of treatment

Clinically and cost effective nutritional support can ...

- Improve nutritional intake
- Improved or maintain nutritional status
- Improve function (ADLs, grip strength)
- Improve clinical outcomes such as reduced complications, reduced mortality, reduced hospital readmission
- Reduce healthcare use and costs

TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHAT MATTERS TO PATIENTS AND CARERS

Tolerance to treatment e.g. cancer

Recovery e.g. from surgery / injury / wound / pressure ulcer

Avoiding a hospital admission, reinfection, an acute exacerbation

Remaining independent, strong enough to go out / walk upstairs / sit in the garden.

Preservation of self and identity - social life, work, return to previous health status

Survival and living life as best as possible

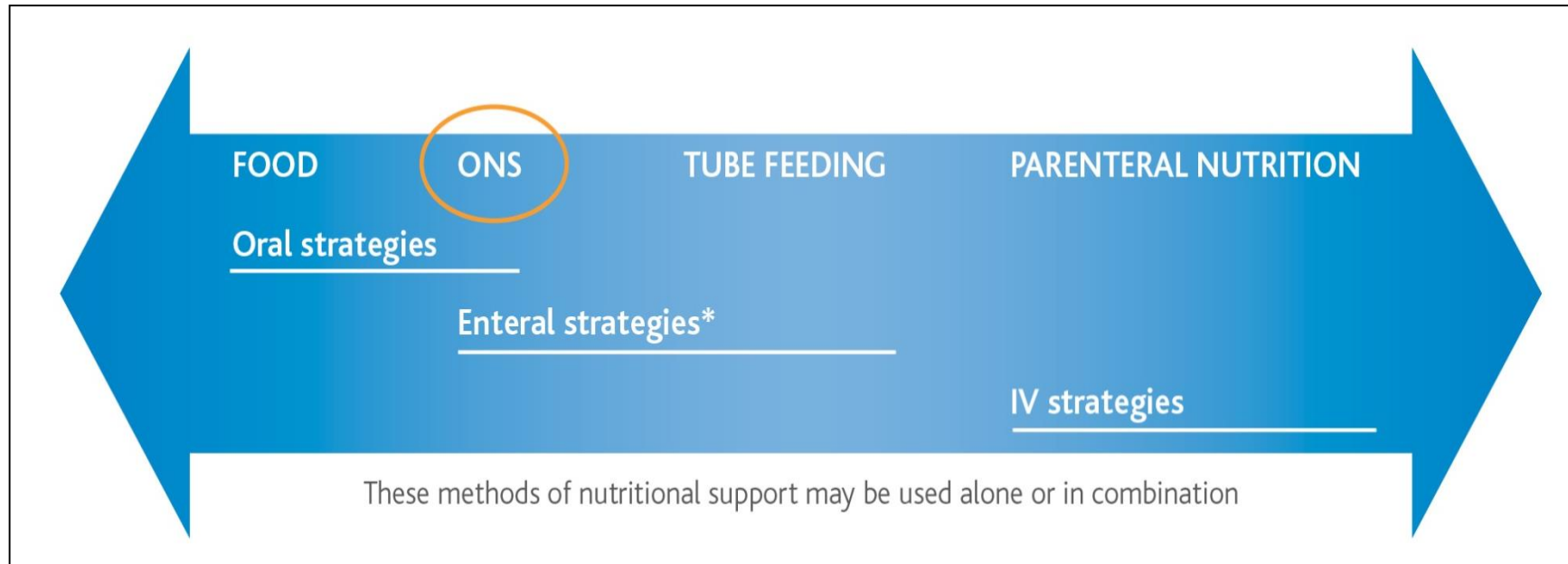
NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT SOLUTIONS (NICE CG32 2006)

HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS SHOULD CONSIDER ORAL NUTRITION SUPPORT TO IMPROVE NUTRITIONAL INTAKE FOR PEOPLE WHO CAN SWALLOW SAFELY AND ARE MALNOURISHED OR AT RISK OF MALNUTRITION (A-GRADE EVIDENCE).

- Feeding aids
- Texture modified diets
- Changed meal patterns – more frequent
- Fortified meals and drinks
- Dietary counselling
- Oral nutritional supplements (ONS) / vitamin and mineral supplements
- Tube feeding (NG / Gastrostomy) when oral intake inadequate
- Parenteral nutrition when gut non-functioning / partially functioning



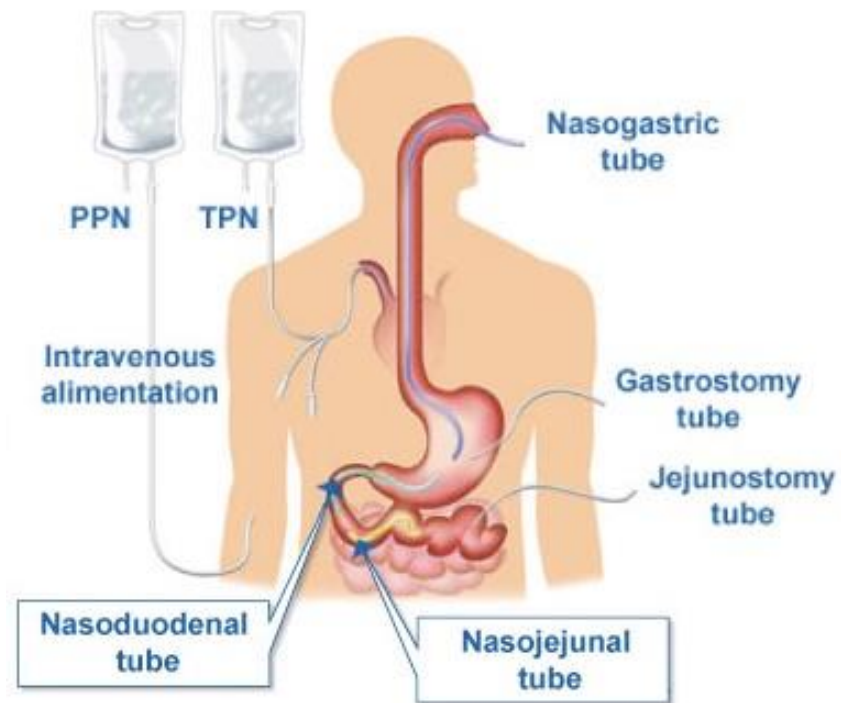
Treatment of undernutrition / malnutrition - A continuum of care



*Based on the ESPEN definition. Lochs H, Allison SP, Meier R, Pirlich M, Kondrup J, Schneider S et al. Introductory to the ESPEN Guidelines on Enteral Nutrition: Terminology, definitions and general topics. Clin Nutr 2006; 25(2):180-186.

CLINICALLY ASSISTED
NUTRITION AND HYDRATION
(NUTRITION SUPPORT) CAN BE
LIFE-SAVING

For more information on feeding decisions see
<https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/outputs/supporting-people-who-have-eating-and-drinking-difficulties>



**Supporting people
who have eating and
drinking difficulties**
A guide to practical care
and clinical assistance,
particularly towards the
end of life



EXAMPLE:

EFFECT OF ORAL CANDIDA ON DIETARY INTAKES IN OLDER PEOPLE



- Affects up to 40% of older population
- High prevalence of hypozincaemia & Vit. C deficiency, inadequate energy and protein intakes¹
- Those who responded to treatment increased dietary intake by day 30¹
- Correct deficiencies and provide oral nutritional support whilst intake affected



**ORAL NUTRITION SUPPORT
DIETARY ADVICE +/- ONS**

November 21

ADDRESS UNDERLYING PROBLEMS AFFECTING INTAKE, APPETITE & ENJOYMENT OF FOOD – FIX THE FIXABLE

Taste changes

Early satiety, poor
appetite

Anxiety,
depression

Physical issues e.g.
dysphagia, arthritis

Bowel issues

Side effects of
medication, poly-
pharmacy

Dentition/Chewing
& swallowing
problems

Knowledge,
cooking skills

Loss of interest,
bereavement

Loneliness,
isolation

Finances

Lack of support

APPLY A DOSE OF REALISM IN PATIENTS WHO ARE UNWELL



Deficit in those losing weight unintentionally approx. 400 – 1000 Calories daily

- What is the likely increase in oral intake diet alone?
- Protein intakes often considerably below requirements
- Is a 'food based' approach sufficient to replete lost stores and prevent further weight loss?
- 2/3 Dietitians use a combined approach in practice (dietary advice + ONS¹)

1. Ref: Gibbs, M, Drey, N & Baldwin, C 2018, 'Oral nutrition support interventions for patients who are malnourished or at risk of malnutrition: a survey of clinical practice amongst UK dietitians', *Journal of Human Nutrition and Dietetics*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jhn.12599>

DEALING WITH
EATING AND
DRINKING
DIFFICULTIES
SHOULD ADDRESS
THE MEANING OF
FOOD



Fig 3 –p24 Supporting people who have eating and drinking difficulties (2021) RCP

<https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/outputs/supporting-people-who-have-eating-and-drinking-difficulties>

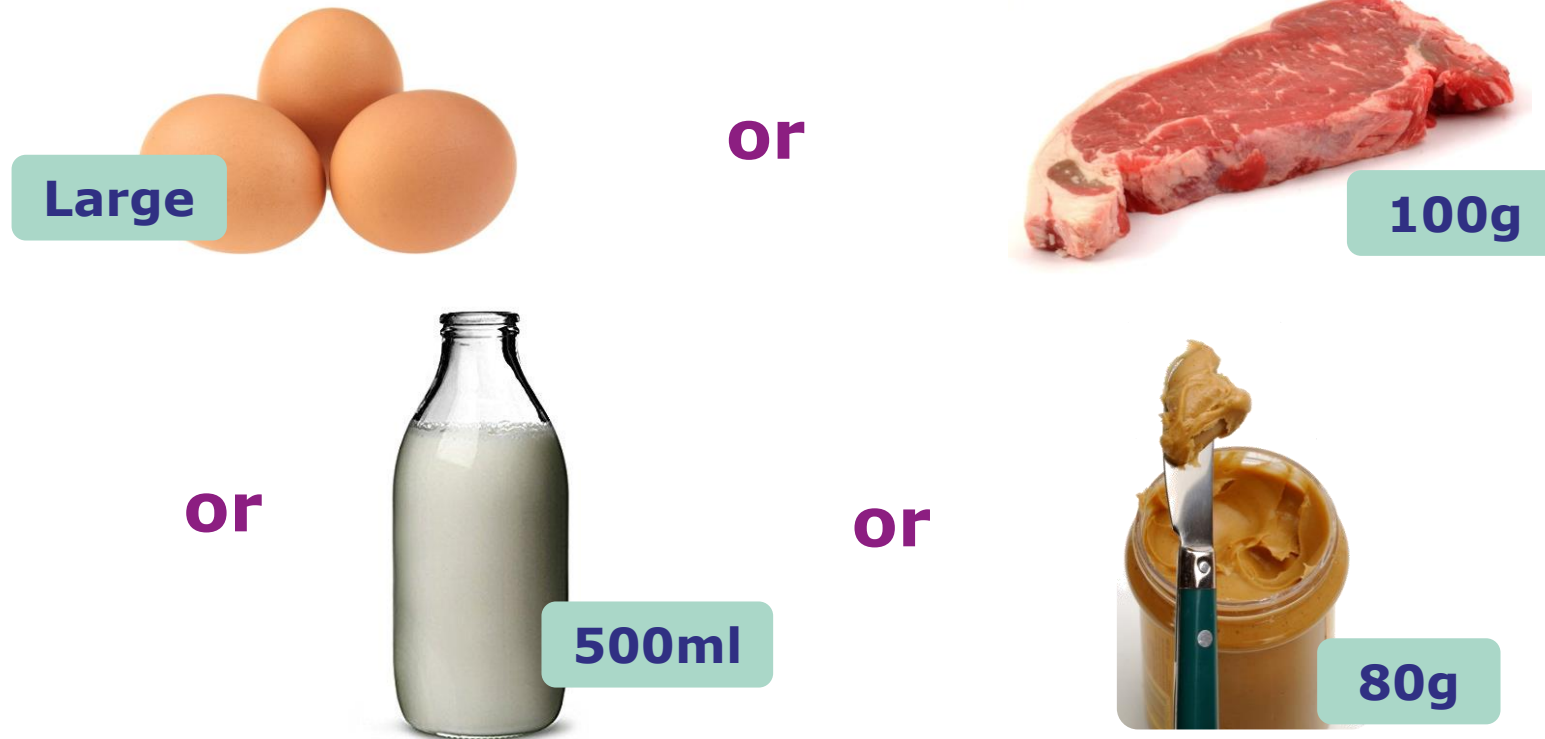
PROTEIN REQUIREMENTS ARE HIGHER IN OLDER ADULTS AND THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

	Protein Requirements
Healthy	0.8 g per kg body weight per day
Older people, malnourished or at risk due to acute/chronic condition	1.2 – 1.5 g per kg body weight per day
Severe illness/injury	>1.5 g per kg body weight per day

Deutz NE, et al. (2014). Protein intake and exercise for optimal muscle function with aging: Recommendations from the ESPEN Group. Clinical Nutrition 33

In frail older people and in chronic disease the amount of protein required per meal = 20 - 30 grams x 3

Deutz NE, et al. (2014). Protein intake and exercise for optimal muscle function with aging: Recommendations from the ESPEN Group. Clin Nutr 33 ESPEN guidance 2015, 2017



EXAMPLES OF 20 GRAMS OF PROTEIN

Oral Nutrition Supplements



**ENSURE ACCESS TO OR PROVIDE
ADVICE AND RESOURCES ON PROTEIN
RICH FOODS, NOURISHING DRINKS
AND ONS, COMBINED WITH ADVICE
ON RESISTANCE ACTIVITY**

SEE IDEAS AT:

<https://www.malnutritionpathway.co.uk/proteinfoods>



DYSPHAGIA IS HIGHLY PREVALENT IN SOME CONDITIONS AND MAY REQUIRE TEXTURE MODIFIED DIETS AND MODIFIED FLUIDS

Neurological

- CVA
- PD
- MS
- Dementia



Obstructive

- Oral cancer
- Radiotherapy
- GORD
- Thrush



Muscular

- Scleroderma
- Achalasia

Other

- Ageing
- **COPD**



For guidance and resources on dysphagia and texture modified diets visit:

<https://www.malnutritionpathway.co.uk/dysphagia.pdf>

<https://iddsi.org/Resources>

FORTIFICATION: ADDING EXTRA PROTEIN, FATS OR SUGARS TO FOOD AND DRINK

EXAMPLE: ADDING MILK POWDER TO MILK

- ensure it does not adversely affect the taste / texture of food
- check advice is feasible, practical and acceptable
- consider special meal providers
- consider need for vitamin and mineral supplement ^{1,2,3}

1. NICE Guidance CG32 (2006 & 2017)

2. Stratton RJ. Malnutrition: another health inequality? *Proc Nutr Soc* 2007; 66(4):522-529.

3. Calder PC Nutrition, Immunity and COVID-19 *BMJ Nutrition, Prevention & Health* 2020

PERCENTAGE OF OLDER ADULTS IN THE UK WITH MICRONUTRIENT INTAKES BELOW THE REFERENCE NUTRIENT INTAKE*

Micronutrient	Free-living (n 540–735)†		Institutions (n 93–319)†		At risk of malnutrition (all settings; n 55–80)	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Minerals						
K	85	97	94	98	91	94
Ca	35	57	22	28	55	49
Mg	72	87	90	96	87	83
Fe	27	54	41	62	58	50
Cu	72	89	86	91	82	86
Zn	62	59	65	48	82	53
I	30	52	28	42	47	49
Vitamins						
Vitamin A	43	44	30	23	53	40
Vitamin D	93	96	98	98	96	96
Thiamin	9	11	17	13	18	11
Riboflavin	25	31	26	14	51	20
Vitamin B ₆	9	9	18	9	29	8
Vitamin B ₁₂	1	5	1	2	1.8	4
Folate	25	48	41	53	56	44
Vitamin C	28	36	37	48	44	49

*Reference nutrient intakes for men and women aged \pm 50 years(13).

†No. of patients varies according to micronutrient and group (male and female).

Stratton RJ. Malnutrition: another health inequality? *Proc Nutr Soc* 2007; 66(4):522-529.

DEFICIENCIES OF MICRONUTRIENTS ARE COMMON AND ARE PART OF MALNUTRITION¹

NICE Guidance CG32 (2006 & 2017)²

Oral multivitamin and mineral supplements should help individuals who are eating poorly to meet their vitamin and mineral requirements.....many older individuals living at home and a great many living in residential care were found to have biochemical deficiencies of vitamins or minerals despite the fact that their food supply appeared to contain sufficient amounts.



1. Stratton RJ. Malnutrition: another health inequality? Proc Nutr Soc 2007; 66(4):522-529.
2. NICE. Nutrition support for adults: oral nutrition support, enteral tube feeding and parenteral nutrition. NICE clinical guideline CG32. NICE, 2006. Available at: www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg32

DIETARY INTAKE, ENERGY AND NUTRIENT INTAKE MAY CONTINUE TO FALL SHORT OF REQUIREMENTS DESPITE BEST EFFORTS^{1,2,3}

Oral nutritional supplements (ONS) may be required to treat or prevent malnutrition.

In frail elderly, those who are acutely unwell, consider whether delaying ONS will cause irreversible loss of muscle mass and decline in function

1. Barton AD, Beigg CL, Macdonald IA, Allison SP. High food wastage and low nutritional intakes in hospital patients. *Clin Nutr* 2000; 19(6):445-449.
2. Walton K, Williams P, Tapsell L, Batterham M. Rehabilitation in patients are not meeting their energy and protein needs. *ESPEN, the European e-Journal of Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism* 2007; 2:e120-e126.
3. Stratton RJ. Malnutrition: another health inequality? *Proc Nutr Soc* 2007; 66(4):522-529.

TYPES OF ONS – LIQUIDS, POWDERS, DESSERTS



Check your local formularies

For at a glance overview see <https://www.malnutritionpathway.co.uk/library/ons.pdf>

Standard 1 – 1.5 kcal/ml

High energy / nutrient dense

High protein (NEW)

Compact > 2.4 kcal/ml

Nutritionally complete

Nutritionally incomplete

Peptide based / elemental

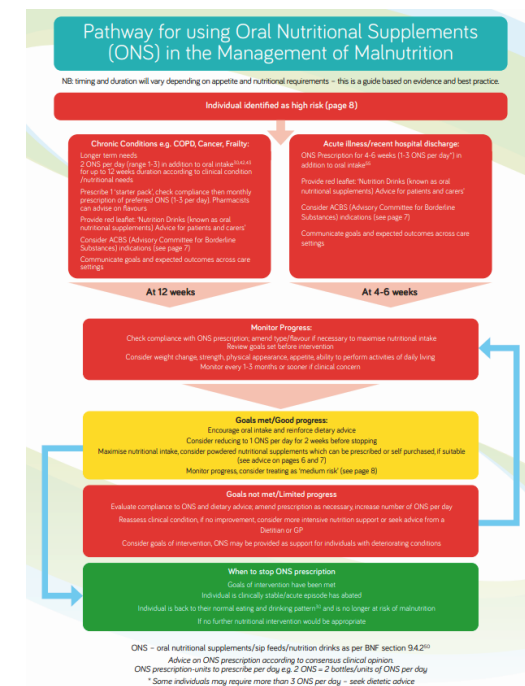
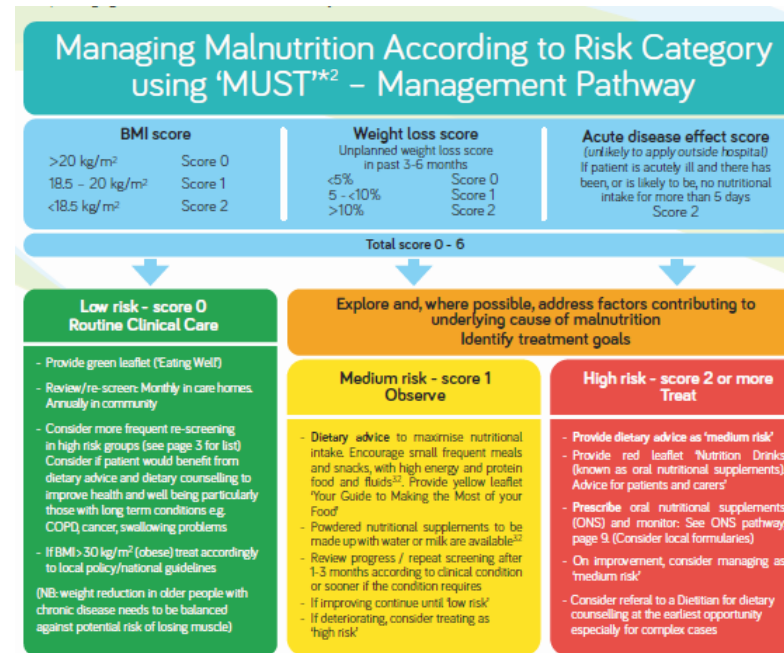
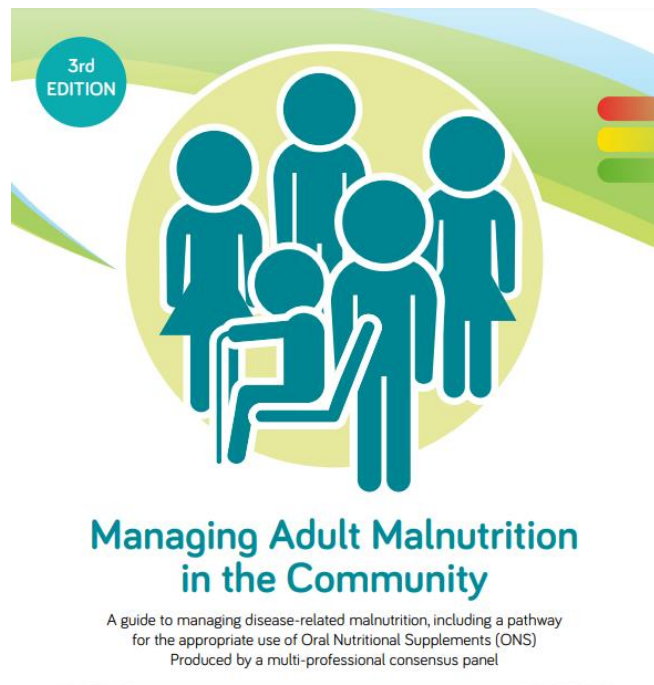
**WHAT RESOURCES ARE THERE
TO HELP PUT ALL THIS INTO
PRACTICE?**

November 21

RESOURCES TO HELP TACKLE MALNUTRITION

WWW.MALNUTRITIONPATHWAY.CO.UK

- Practical guidance and resources created by a multidisciplinary expert panel, endorsed by 11 professional organisations



www.malnutritionpathway.co.uk

3rd Edition: 2021
1st Edition produced May 2012
(Document to be reviewed 2024)

- Includes a pathway for ONS – when to start and when to stop

MANAGING ADULT MALNUTRITION IN THE COMMUNITY

WWW.MALNUTRITIONPATHWAY.CO.UK

Eating Well - Advice for patients and carers

- You have been given this leaflet to help you eat well and keep as healthy as possible
- Eating a balanced diet is essential to provide your body with all the nutrients it needs. A healthy, balanced diet will help to keep you in good health and can help you feel your best
- The Eatwell guide below gives you more information about what to eat to ensure you are getting a balanced diet

Have a healthy, balanced diet we should try to:

- Eat plenty of fruit and vegetables** - aim for at least 5 portions a day
- Fruit and vegetables contain essential vitamins and minerals to boost your immune system and are a good source of fibre, which can help maintain a healthy gut. Try to eat a variety of different fruit and vegetables (including different colours)
- Fruit and vegetables can be fresh, frozen, canned - they all count!
- Include a starchy food at each meal**
- These foods provide you with energy
- Starchy foods include potatoes, bread, pasta, rice, cereals
- Try to choose wholegrain versions where possible

Accessible patient/carer materials for optimising nutrition according to risk

Your Guide To Making the Most of Your Food Advice for patients and carers

This leaflet provides some simple ideas on how you can get the most nutrition from the food you are eating. If you have a medical condition, food allergies or issues with swallowing for which you have received special dietary advice, the information in this leaflet may not be right for you. Please discuss with your healthcare professional.

Little and Often

- Eating smaller meals with snacks and nourishing drinks in between may be best for you
- Try having drinks separately from meals, as the liquid can fill you up
- Try having a pudding once or twice a day such as full fat yogurt, ice cream, cake, custard, rice pudding
- Snacks in between meals can help you to eat more each day

Snacks ideas: Sandwiches, fruit cake, nuts, Bombay mix, crisps, cereals, soups, yogurts, finger foods (eg sausage rolls, scotch eggs, samosas), toasted cakes with butter, crackers and cheese, toast + topping (eg beans, scrambled egg, butter), sliced fruit in syrup

NI: Vegan options (eg, vegan cream, cheese, mayonnaise, spreads) are available. If you are following a vegan diet try to include a range of plant based protein sources in your diet (eg, tofu, beans, pulses, nuts)

Enhancing your Food/Adding Extra Calories

- Choose full fat/full cream with sugar foods rather than low fat/low sugar types (eg, full fat yogurt, full cream milk)
- Add cheese or ground nuts to soups, mashed potatoes, vegetables, pasta dishes, curries
- Use butter, margarine, olive oil or salad cream in sandwiches, on potatoes, yams and salads
- Add extra butter/margarine or olive to vegetables, scrambled eggs and bread
- Add cream or condensed milk to puddings
- Add sugar, jam, honey or milk powder to porridge, breakfast cereals or puddings
- Use cooking methods that add oil (eg frying) and if you roast or grill then brush generously with oil. Healthier options include roasting potatoes and oil (eg, sunflower, rapeseed) and micronutrientised oils (eg, olive, rapeseed)

Nutrition Drinks (known as Oral Nutritional Supplements) Advice for patients and carers

The importance of good nutrition

- We need food and water to give us the essential nutrients (eg, energy, protein, vitamins) to keep us active and well
- If you are unwell or recovering from an illness you may not feel like eating and drinking
- Your illness, medicines and/or treatment may make things taste different, affect your appetite and make you feel full more quickly
- You have been prescribed nutrition drinks (oral nutritional supplements) in addition to your diet to help meet your energy and nutrient needs
- Ideas on how to boost your usual diet are given in a separate information sheet 'Your Guide to Making the Most of your Food'

If you continue to lose weight please see your GP or Dietitian

What are oral nutritional supplements?

Oral nutritional supplements are specially made to contain energy, protein, vitamins and minerals. They are available in drinks, soups and desserts to help people who are finding it difficult to eat enough to get the nutrition they need. Oral nutritional supplements can help you gain weight or stay at a healthy weight. They may also help you to cope better with an illness, tolerate treatments or recover from illness.

How many oral nutritional supplements should I take and how do I take them?

- Everybody is different. Your healthcare professional can give advice on how many oral nutritional supplements you need to take each day and which types might be best for you. Prescriptions are often between 1 and 3 oral nutritional supplements a day

Oral nutritional supplement's

Oral nutritional supplement's	Number of bottles/pouch/sachets to take per day

Oral nutritional supplements will help improve your dietary intake. It is important that you take the recommended number/flow each day but if you have trouble managing the amount recommended do let your healthcare professional know.

- In general, people take oral nutritional supplements when they most feel like drinking or eating them. This could be between meals, like a snack, first thing in the morning or before bed time. Others find that taking small amounts of their supplements regularly throughout the day helps. Oral nutritional supplements can also be included in some of your favourite recipes too (see section on next page)
- Most oral nutritional supplements (drinks & desserts) taste best cold but can be heated if you prefer. Soup and savoury styles are better warm
- You should shake nutrition drinks well before opening
- You can drink most oral nutritional supplements straight from the bottle using a straw if provided or you can pour it into a glass or cup

TOP TIPS FOR CARE SETTINGS AND HCPs

TEN TOP TIPS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE MALNUTRITION PATHWAY:

General Practitioners (GPs)

Every day, over one million people, including the frail elderly and those with long-term conditions, will be cared for by their GP surgery. As malnutrition can be both a cause and a consequence of disease, GPs and primary care professionals are key players in identifying malnutrition which can be developing insidiously.

The development of 'A Guide to Managing Adult Malnutrition in the Community' was driven by a need, identified by research amongst GPs, to provide a practical guide to identifying and managing malnutrition in the community for use by the primary care team. The work was intended to facilitate improving the identification, treatment and prevention of malnutrition and in turn prevent escalating health and social care costs associated with failing to tackle malnutrition.

Key considerations

- Consider how nutrition screening and the pathway can be implemented particularly in high risk groups. Is nutrition and nutrition screening integral to all care pathways? Can nutritional screening be carried out at an annual review or piloted in specific patient clinics such as COPD, frailty, older persons health check or as part of the medicines review particularly for those with polypharmacy. For examples of where implementing the pathway has demonstrated cost savings in practice see <https://www.malnutritionpathway.co.uk/best-practice-awards-winners>
- Identify key stakeholders e.g. local CCG commissioners, GPs, medicines management team, acute and community dietitians to work with. Ensure they are engaged and in agreement with the implementation of the pathway.
- Consider local audits, in agreement with those commissioning care, where implementation of the malnutrition management pathway may lead to cost savings e.g. by preventing hospital admissions, reducing falls.
- Encourage colleagues to build into conversations questions to ascertain what patients are eating and drinking and if any factors are interfering with their ability to achieve an adequate oral intake of nutrition and hydration.
- Weight loss might be a red flag for underlying pathology but treat the malnutrition as well as making a referral for investigation.

Managing Adult Malnutrition

Including a pathway for the appropriate use of oral nutritional supplements (ONS)

Care Homes

A number of resources are available to assist those working in care and residential homes:

- NEW! COVID-19: GOOD NUTRITIONAL CARE**
- TOP 10 TIPS FOR CARE HOMES**
- CARE PLANS**
- CARE HOMES FACT SHEET**

Care Homes Fact Sheet

A fact sheet outlining why older people and the elderly are particularly vulnerable to malnutrition, why it is important for care and residential homes to acknowledge the problem and key considerations for care homes in identifying and managing malnutrition amongst residents.

DOWNLOAD

- POSTER**
- PATIENT INFORMATION**

For both medium and high risk categories of malnutrition timely review is key: 1-3 months depending on clinical concern

WHAT TO DO IN CLINICAL PRACTICE FOOD / ONS / VITAMIN & MINERALS /SOCIAL R_x ?

For an older person in a care home where qualified staff are on hand to support eating and drinking, a chef understands how to modify meals and staff have been trained to prevent malnutrition and where appetite is maintained it may be appropriate to take a food-based approach, a vitamin and mineral supplement may be required

Faced with a patient with multiple morbidities who has spent time acutely unwell and 'wasting' in hospital, lives alone, is lacking energy and strength to prepare 'fortified meals', has considerable muscle loss and muscle strength, in whom appetite remains poor, why would you delay a more assertive multimodal approach: consider advice on diet plus oral nutritional supplements, meal delivery, social support?

WHEN TO REFER TO THE DIETITIAN?

- When goals set are not met in a suitable timescale
- When multi-morbidities are present e.g. diabetes, dysphagia, cancer
- In those who are at 'high risk' – low BMI/high rate of weight loss, 'MUST' score 2 or more – but you can take action in the meantime
- To review those requiring ONS or on long term ONS (this will depend on local arrangements)
- When clinically assisted nutrition and hydration is being considered

**DOES TACKLING
MALNUTRITION MAKE A
DIFFERENCE?**

SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS AND META-ANALYSES HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT ORAL NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT CAN ^{1,2,3}

- ✓ Reduce complications (pressure ulcers, delayed wound healing, infections)
- ✓ Reduce hospital admissions, readmissions & length of stay
- ✓ Reduce mortality
- ✓ Increase physical function
- ✓ Improve quality of life

Note - considerable heterogeneity in studies³.

More studies are required in specific conditions examining the dual role of exercise and nutrition combined

1. Stratton and Elia 2007 *Clinical Nutrition Supplements* 2(1):5-23 2. Stratton, R. J., Hébuterne, X., & Elia, M. 2013 *Ageing research reviews*, 12(4), 884–897. 3. Baldwin et al 2021 *Adv Nutr* 2021;12(2):503-52

Recommended treatment for targeting muscle mass and function is based on optimal nutrition and physical exercise

EWGSOP2

- Physical exercise (resistance training)
- Optimization of protein intake
- Vitamin D supplementation

PROT-AGE Study Group

- Protein intake at least 1.2 g/kg/day
- Per-meal anabolic threshold of protein/amino acid intake ~25-30 g (containing ~2.5-2.8g leucine)
- High-quality protein source (e.g. whey)
- Adequate intake of vitamin D

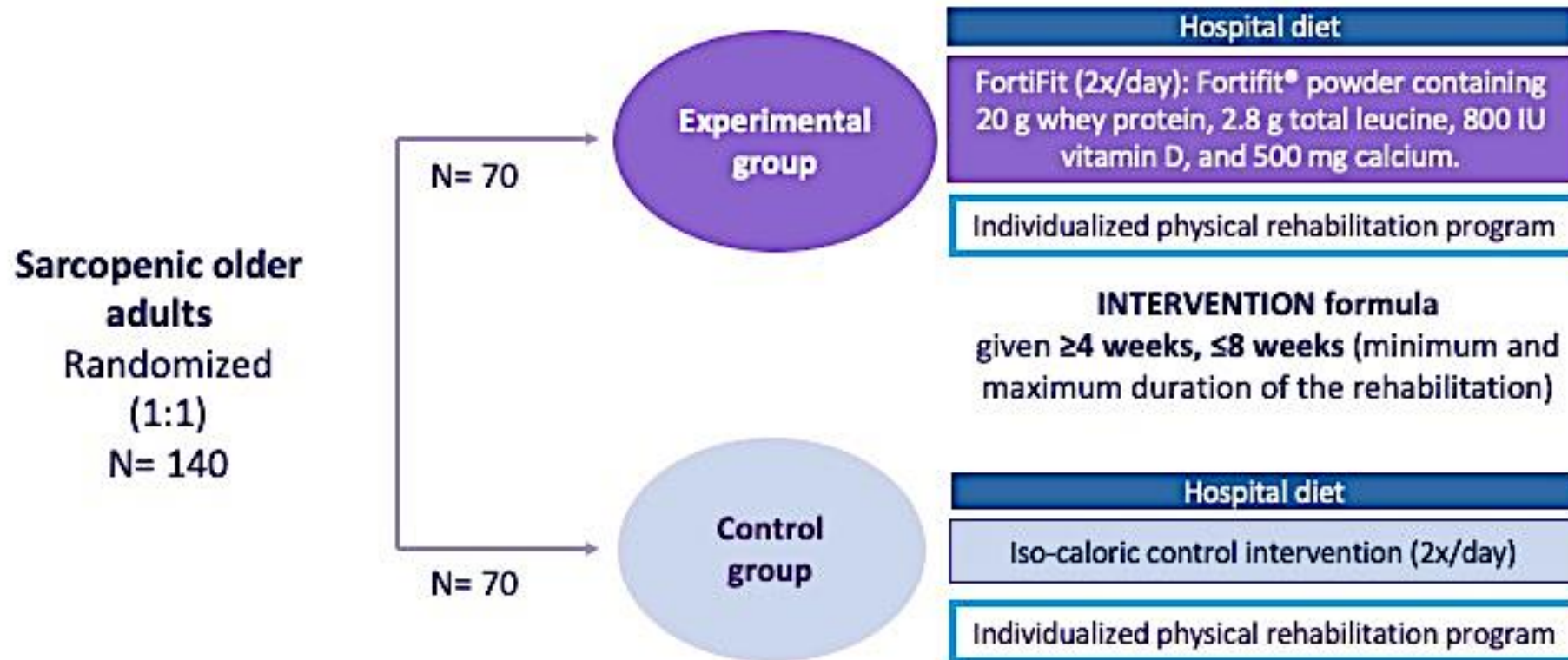
Bauer et al. J Am Med Dir Assoc 2013;14:542-59

Deutz et al. Clin Nutr 2014;33:929-36








Cruz-Jentoft AJ et al. Age Ageing. 2019;48:16-31.

CAN TARGETED NUTRITIONAL THERAPY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Interventions



Study endpoints at discharge

Primary endpoint	Secondary endpoints	Other measures
 Change in gait speed	 QoL  Body composition  Physical performance  Functional status	 Health economics  Nutritional outcomes

Results: Primary endpoint



- Baseline characteristics in the 2 groups were similar.
- Mean compliance to intervention was good (experimental, 92%; control, 90%).

	Control formula Within-group change ^a (N=63)	Experimental formula Within-group change ^a (N=64)	Treatment effect Between-group difference ^a	P-value
Primary analysis	-0.001 (-0.008 to 0.006)	0.061 (0.043 to 0.080) ^b	0.062 (0.043 to 0.082)	<0.001
<u>Sensitivity analyses:</u>				
Multivariable analysis ^c	--	--	0.042 (0.026 to 0.058)	<0.001
Worst case scenario analysis	-0.006 (-0.138 to 0.001)	0.052 (0.033 to 0.070) ^b	0.058 (0.038 to 0.078)	<0.001

^a Data are provided as mean and 95%CI.

^b Within-group change significant at the 5% level.

^c Model adjusted for sex, age, monthly change in energy intake, monthly change in creatinine and monthly change in total cholesterol

Results: Key secondary endpoints



Endpoints	Control formula Within-group change ^a (N=63)	Experimental formula Within-group change ^a (N=64)	Treatment effect Between-group difference ^a	P-value
Chair stand test (s)	-4.44 (-5.85 to -3.03) ^b	8.20 (7.05 to 9.35) ^b	12.64 (10.84 to 14.44)	<0.001
Timed up and go test (s)	-0.76 (-1.07 to -0.44) ^b	2.95 (2.41 to 3.49) ^b	3.71 (3.09 to 4.33)	<0.001
SPPB (score)	0.33 (0.19 to 0.46) ^b	2.60 (2.23 to 2.98) ^b	2.27 (1.88 to 2.68)	<0.001

^a Data are provided as mean and 95%CI.

^b Within-group change significant at the 5% level.

Results: Other secondary endpoints



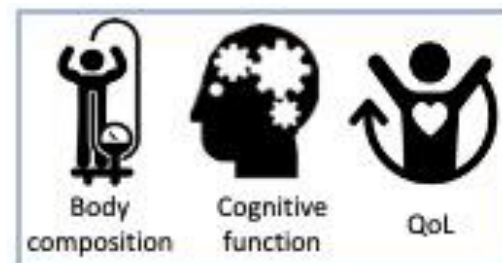
Functional status

Endpoints	Control formula Within-group change ^a (N=63)	Experimental formula Within-group change ^a (N=64)	Treatment effect Between-group difference ^a	P-value
Activities of daily living (score)	0.01 (-0.10 to 0.12)	0.67 (0.51 to 0.83) ^b	0.66 (0.46 to 0.85)	<0.001
Tinetti scale (score)	-0.27 (-0.57 to 0.03)	2.09 (1.67 to 2.52) ^b	2.36 (1.85 to 2.88)	<0.001
Barthel index (score)	0.92 (-0.15 to 1.99)	5.02 (3.77 to 6.27) ^b	4.10 (2.47 to 5.73)	<0.001
Handgrip strength (kg)	-1.47 (-2.01 to -0.92) ^b	3.98 (3.20 to 4.75) ^b	5.45 (4.51 to 6.38)	<0.001

^a Data are provided as mean and 95%CI.

^b Within-group change significant at the 5% level.

Results: More secondary endpoints



Endpoints	Control formula Within-group change ^a (N=63)	Experimental formula Within-group change ^a (N=64)	Treatment effect Between-group difference ^a	P-value
Body weight (kg)	-0.90 (-1.09 to -0.70) ^b	1.55 (1.35 to 1.76) ^b	2.45 (2.17 to 2.73)	<0.001
Appendicular muscle mass (g)	-69.4 (-843.7 to 704.9)	949.8 (783.7 to 1115.8) ^b	1019.2 (235.2 to 1803.2)	0.011
Skeletal muscle mass index (kg/m ²)	-0.02 (-0.35 to 0.32)	0.38 (0.31 to 0.442) ^b	0.40 (0.06 to 0.73)	0.023
MMSE (score)	-0.11 (-0.16 to -0.05) ^b	0.46 (0.25 to 0.66) ^b	0.57 (0.352 to 0.773)	<0.001
Trail making test (s)	-0.12 (-0.48 to 0.23)	-3.32 (-4.01 to -2.63) ^b	-3.20 (-3.97 to -2.43)	<0.001
SF-12 PCS (score)	0.16 (-1.09 to 1.40)	1.47 (0.68 to 2.26) ^b	1.31 (-0.15 to 2.77)	0.08
SF-12 MCS (score)	1.38 (0.61 to 2.16) ^b	1.25 (0.28 to 2.222) ^b	-0.13 (-1.367 to 1.098)	0.82

^a Data are provided as mean and 95%CI.

^b Within-group change significant at the 5% level.

Rondanelli M, Cereda E et al. *J Cachexia Sarcopenia Muscle* 2020; In press

Cereda E – ESPEN 2020

Results: Health economics endpoint



- A greater proportion of patients went home instead of being transferred to an institution:
84.3% vs. 60.3%
Treatment difference, **24.0%** [95%CI, 9.1 to 39.1], (P=0.002)
- A greater proportion of patients experienced a reduction in intensity of care:
85.9% vs. 63.5%
Treatment difference, **22.5%** [95%CI, 7.8 to 37.1], (P=0.003)

CONCLUSIONS

- The first high quality trial investigating the accepted treatment of sarcopenia (resistance training, optimisation of protein intake and vitamin D supplementation) on multiple physical performance outcome measures and the related cost saving
- All patients underwent an individualised physical rehabilitation programme but benefits were seen only in the group receiving muscle-targeted nutritional formula

Rondanelli M, Cereda E et al. Journal Cachexia, Sarcopenia Muscle 2020 11, 6 1535-1547

TAKE HOME MESSAGES

Older people are nutritionally vulnerable especially those with multimorbidity

Nutritional care should be anticipatory and considered and initiated for people in whom we know are unlikely to, or are unable to eat, to meet requirements orally, taking into account the trajectory of disease

Optimal nutrition care (protein, vit D, diet quality), managing eating difficulties, combined with activity are central to well-being, disease management, rehabilitation and QoL. Nutritional rehabilitation may be required for weeks / months beyond hospital discharge

Overlooking the nutritional needs of frail older people leads to a downward spiral of increasing dependency on others. Teamwork and good communication is essential - mind the gaps as patients transfer across settings

Visit: www.malnutritionpathway.co.uk

SOME SUGGESTED KEY ACTIONS..... (WE NEED NUTRITION CHAMPIONS)

1

Consider building screening / nutritional assessment into consultation templates especially those with chronic conditions e.g. COPD, frailty, cancer

2

Overcome barriers - Work as a team, draw on each other's strengths, collaborate and ensure resources and services for both patients and clinicians are accessible

3

Update and communicate plans as patients move across settings - Engage with dietitians for complex patient management, leadership, training

**THANKYOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**

TIME FOR QUESTIONS

CASE STUDY

November 21

CASE STUDY - FRAIL OLDER PERSON - JOYCE

83-year-old female. Lives alone in sheltered housing

History of type 2 diabetes and hypertension

Admitted to hospital after a fall in which she #NOF.

Developed leg ulcers during a 3-week hospital stay.

Since discharge - District nursing visiting several times a week for wound care (ulcers unchanged over 4 weeks)

Significant loss of function, limited movement around flat with Zimmer- frame. Frail, depressed, withdrawn, considered 'end-of- life', referred to palliative nurse specialist

Palliative nurse specialist identified appetite poor and had not picked up since hospital discharge. Weight on discharge from hospital not known but estimated from history that Joyce had experienced 17 % weight loss over 2 months. BMI = 20 kg/m²

FACTORS TO CONSIDER



Appetite, dietary intake and ability to source and prepare meals

Appropriateness of dietary restrictions for diabetes and hypertension when appetite is poor

Vit. D supplementation (depressed, elderly and house bound). Vit D level in hospital was 23 no action taken!

Poor wound healing secondary to sub-optimal protein, vitamin and mineral intake/ status*

Joyce's goals?

***Daily cost of pressure ulcers = £43 - £374¹** www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg179/

INTERVENTION AND OUTCOME

Palliative nurse specialist initiated prescription for 125 ml Compact ready to drink, ONS b.d.

Palliative nurse consulted with dietitian regarding appropriate dietary advice to give

Dietitian requested Vit. D replacement therapy via GP.

Joyce was monitored by nurse & pharmacist

Nutritional status improved considerably – weight stabilised. ADLs improved, pressure ulcers healed. ONS reduced from 1 x 125 mls to 1 x 125 mls after 8 weeks

Change – transformational - no longer 'end-of-life'

Discharged from palliative care team after 3 months

“I love the drinks, I have no doubt they helped heal my ulcers because before I took them the ulcers were getting worse. I was so weak. My carers have been marvellous and I know I am eating better but the drinks helped too. They gave me the strength to get up and walk around my flat. 2 months ago even getting to the door was an effort, I feel so different now.

Earlier this year I wanted to die, now I want to live. I am loving life again, loving seeing my grand-children and feeling I have the energy to face the day”