

Screening on undernutrition is mandatory in Dutch hospitals

E Leistra¹, AM Evers¹, JMJ van den Berg², E van der Heijden¹, CJJ Mulder¹, AC de Buijne-Dobben², HM Kruizenga¹

¹Dutch Malnutrition Steering Group, Amsterdam, ²Health Care Inspectorate, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Rationale

In the past years, the Dutch Malnutrition Steering Group (DMG) gained attention for the problem of disease related undernutrition in The Netherlands. Between 2006 and 2009 DMG performed an implementation project on early detection and treatment of undernutrition in hospitals. The implementation objectives of this project were adapted by the Health Care Inspectorate (HCI) as part of the Performance Indicators for Risk Steering Supervision. Aim of this study was to evaluate the results of 2007 and 2008.

Methods

As of 2007 Dutch hospitals annually have to report on the percentage of patients screened on undernutrition at hospital admission to the HCI. In addition, as of 2008 hospitals annually have to report on undernutrition treatment on 4 measure days (expressed as percentage of undernourished patients with a protein intake of 1.2-1.5 g/kg on the fourth day of admission). Results of 2007 and 2008 are presented.

Results

In 2007, 81 out of 100 hospitals reported to have implemented systematic screening before or during 2007, of which 72 hospitals reported on undernutrition screening. In 2008, 96 out of 100 hospitals reported on screening and 58 hospitals reported on treatment undernutrition. The number of patients reported about increased between 2007 and 2008.

Mean percentage of patients screened at admission was 54% in 2007 and 56% in 2008 (Table 1). Respectively 11 hospitals (15%) and 19 hospitals (20%) reported a screening percentage of over 80%.

While the number of hospitals reporting on undernutrition treatment increased during the four trimesters of 2008, percentage of patients with adequate protein intake decreased (Figure 1).

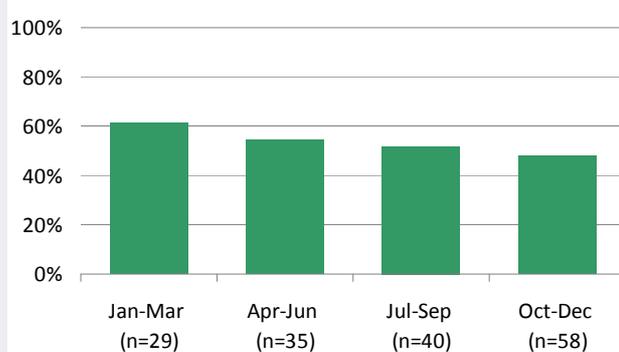


Figure 1. Percentage undernourished patients with an adequate protein intake on day 4 in Dutch hospitals in 2008 (weighed mean)

Conclusions

Screening and treatment of undernutrition have become mandatory performance indicators in Dutch hospital care. A substantial increase in hospitals and patients reported about and a slight increase in percentage of screening is observed between 2007 and 2008. Expected is that these numbers and percentage patients with adequate treatment will further increase in the next years.

Table 1. Undernutrition screening in Dutch hospitals in 2007 and 2008 (mean \pm SD (min-max))

	2007 (n=72 hospitals)	2008 (n=96 hospitals)
n patients admitted to hospital	316,767	793,901
n patients screened at admission	141,716	387,714
% patients screened at admission	53.5 \pm 27.5 (0.4–100)	55.7 \pm 25.5 (3.4–100)
% moderate undernutrition (n=67; n=94)	7.0 \pm 4.9 (0.5–26.3)	6.1 \pm 4.9 (0.0–28.0)
% severe undernutrition (n=66; n=94)	18.8 \pm 10.5 (0.5–65.1)	17.4 \pm 8.5 (0.0–46.0)