MALNUTRITION KNOWLEDGE CENTRE

The Dutch Malnutrition Steering Group is comprised of leading experts in the field of nutrition and health, committed to improving the health and well-being of older people. The Steering Group aims to prevent and treat malnutrition by embedding knowledge on malnutrition into everyday practice and ensuring that healthcare professionals have access to the latest evidence-based information.

CURRENT AND FUTURE PRIORITIES

The Steering Group identifies the following current and future priorities:

1. **Awareness and Knowledge**: Ensuring that healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, and dietitians, have access to the latest information on malnutrition and its prevention and treatment.
2. **Early Recognition**: Developing tools and protocols for early identification of malnutrition risk in both hospital and community settings.
3. **Interdisciplinary Collaboration**: Fostering collaboration between healthcare providers, nutritionists, and caregivers to improve patient outcomes.
4. **Quality Improvement**: Implementing evidence-based practices to enhance the quality of care for people at risk of malnutrition.
5. **Policy and Research**: Advocating for policies that support the prevention and treatment of malnutrition, and conducting research to inform best practices.

MALNUTRITION IS A MAJOR ISSUE

Malnutrition is a significant public health issue, affecting millions of older adults worldwide. It can result from a variety of factors, including age-related changes in body composition, chronic diseases, and social determinants.

WHY DO WE NEED A KNOWLEDGE CENTRE FOR MALNUTRITION?

A knowledge centre for malnutrition is needed to:

1. **Foster Collaboration**: Bring together experts from various fields to share knowledge and best practices.
2. **Inform Policy**: Influence national and international policies to address malnutrition.
3. **Promote Research**: Support research into the causes, prevention, and treatment of malnutrition.
4. **Improve Practice**: Provide tools and resources to healthcare professionals to improve the quality of care for older adults.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Malnutrition has significant negative consequences for health and well-being, including increased risk of infections, hospitalization, and mortality. It also affects quality of life and can lead to chronic conditions if not addressed.

WHAT IS REQUIRED?

To achieve these goals, the Steering Group requires resources to:

1. **Increase Visibility**: Promote the importance of malnutrition among policymakers, the public, and healthcare providers.
2. **Enhance Accessibility**: Make knowledge and resources easily accessible to all stakeholders.
3. **Support Research**: Fund and conduct research to improve understanding of malnutrition.
4. **Foster Collaboration**: Encourage partnerships and collaborations across sectors.

THE APPROACH OF THE MALNUTRITION STEERING GROUP

The Steering Group employs a multi-faceted approach to address malnutrition, including:

1. **Awareness Campaigns**: Through educational materials and webinars, the Steering Group raises awareness about malnutrition and its impact.
3. **Quality Improvement Initiatives**: Implement quality improvement strategies to enhance the care provided to older adults.
4. **Research and Development**: Invest in research to develop new interventions and technologies.

CONCLUSION

By working together, the Malnutrition Steering Group can make a significant impact on reducing the prevalence of malnutrition among older adults. Through collaboration, innovation, and dissemination of evidence-based practices, we can improve the health and well-being of our populations.