

EXEMPLAR OF EVIDENCE-BASED CARE IN PRACTICE

Improving the performance of nutrition screening through a series of quality improvement initiatives

<p>WHAT did the initiative involve?</p>	<p>The study aimed to assess the effect of a series of quality improvement initiatives in improving the referral process and the overall performance of the 3-Minute Nutrition Screening (3-MinNS) tool.</p> <p>Annual audits were carried out on 4,467 patients. Performance gaps were identified and addressed through interventions, including (1) implementing a nutrition screening protocol, (2) nutrition screening training, (3) nurse empowerment for online dietetics referral of at-risk cases, (4) a closed-loop feedback system.</p>
<p>WHO was involved in the initiative?</p>	<p>Members of the dietetic and nursing teams.</p>
<p>WHERE did the initiative occur?</p>	<p>The inpatient setting at National University Hospital, Singapore.</p>
<p>WHO was the target of the initiative?</p>	<p>Adult patients (≥ 18 years) with cancer.</p>
<p>WHEN was the initiative undertaken?</p>	<p>2008-2013</p>
<p>HOW was the initiative undertaken?</p>	<p>This study was conducted as a series of quality improvement initiatives.</p>
<p>OUTCOMES</p>	<p>In 2008 and 2009, nutrition screening error rates were 33% and 31%, with 5% and 8% blank or missing forms. For patients at risk of malnutrition, referral to dietetics took up to 7.5 days, with 10% not referred at all.</p> <p>After the interventions, non-referrals decreased to 7% (2010), 4% (2011), and 3% (2012 and 2013), and the mean turnaround time from screening to referral was reduced significantly from 4.3 +/- 1.8 days to 0.3 +/- 0.4 days ($p < .001$). Error rates were reduced to 25% (2010), 15% (2011), 7% (2012), and 5% (2013), and the percentage of blank or missing forms was reduced to and remained at 1%.</p> <p>Quality improvement initiatives were effective in reducing the incompleteness and error rates of nutrition screening and led to sustainable improvements in the referral process of patients at nutritional risk.</p>
<p>REFERENCE</p>	<p>Lim SL, Ng SC, Lye J, Loke WC, Ferguson M, Daniels L. Improving the performance of nutrition screening through a series of quality improvement initiatives. <i>Jt Comm J Qual Patient Saf.</i> 2014 Apr;40(4):178-86.</p>