Nutrition screening process for patients in an acute public hospital servicing an elderly, culturally diverse population

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Key Words: malnutrition, care, screening tools, translation

Research aim:
To develop a process for malnutrition screening for adult multi-day inpatients in an acute public hospital with a large, elderly, multicultural population and streamline referrals to match current workforce resources.

Results/Conclusion:
Of patients screened, 10% experienced communication barriers. With systematic screening, referral of patients increased by 39%. Dietitians assessed 95 patients identified by the frail item using Subjective Global Assessment; and 58% were confirmed as malnourished.

Implications:
The study identified a proportion of acute hospital patients for whom nutrition screening using Malnutrition Screening Tool was difficult because of limited applicability if a patient was unable to communicate. Use of the Malnutrition Screening Tool modified by an additional frail/underweight observation was practical in a systematic nutrition screening process and assisted the containment of dietitians' workloads. Further research is warranted to develop or modify a subjective tool valid for the screening of all targeted hospital patients.

Cultural Group(s):
Mixed

Location of study:
Victoria (Melbourne)

Age group:
Elderly' population

Number included in study:
3,033

Type of participants:
patients screened using Malnutrition Screening Tool

Research approach:
Quantitative

Type of data:

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:
Malnutrition Screening Tool

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: