

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

**Author/s:** Frew, Elizabeth Sequeira, Jennifer Cant, Robyn | **Year:** 2010 | **Publication type:** Journal article | **Peer reviewed:** | **Topic area/s:** General Care, Carers of Older CALD People

**Reference:** Frew, E., J. Sequeira and R. Cant (2010). "Nutrition screening process for patients in an acute public hospital servicing an elderly, culturally diverse population." *Nutrition & Dietetics* 67: 71-76.

**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:**