

ABSTRACT TITLE: Interdisciplinary Teamwork Utilizing Evidence-based Malnutrition Evaluation and Documentation Improves Both Care and Reimbursement for the Hospitalized Patient.

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Background: While there is evidence that addressing the needs of the malnourished patient will improve outcomes, a large percentage of those that meet that criteria are not being evaluated, treated, or recognized for their elevated Severity of Illness and Risk of Mortality.

Purpose: The purpose of this presentation is to describe how we used evidence-based malnutrition criteria, and interdisciplinary teamwork, to address the gap between clinically-identified malnourished patients and the actual number of patients diagnosed, while capturing reimbursement for those services provided.

Method: With the collaboration of our Physician Advisor, Registered Dietitians, and our CDIS RN's, we employed the American Society for Parenteral Enteral Nutrition (A.S.P.E.N.) criteria-based quality improvement model, identified a practice gap, applied evidence-based malnutrition criteria to acutely ill patients, and developed an electronic malnutrition screening tool. We standardized the documentation of malnutrition by creating standard definitions, educating providers, implementing a standardized query template, and developing Epic malnutrition Smart Phrases.

Outcomes: Due to the collaboration of the team members involved, the number of patients diagnosed and treated for malnutrition from July 2014 to June 2015 was 208% of baseline. Reimbursement revenue earned from malnutrition codes during that same time period was >330% of baseline. Total revenue from malnutrition diagnosis codes in fiscal year 2014 was \$6.7 million dollars, a \$4.5 million dollar increase over baseline year (2013).

Summary: With dietitians documenting presence of malnutrition, CDIS RN's are enabled to assist physicians in diagnosing and documenting patients who are malnourished. Use of these tools and collaborative efforts have resulted in a significant increase in the number of patients diagnosed and treated for malnutrition.