



Supporting High Quality Nutrition Care with a Malnutrition Governance Toolkit

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Background:

Malnutrition is common in patients receiving cancer treatment and is associated with reduced treatment tolerance and increased morbidity and mortality. Patients treated in hospitals with strong nutrition governance systems are more likely to receive individualised nutrition care from a dietitian (DHHS point prevalence study 2012)

Method:

Key national stakeholders were identified and working groups involving 27 multidisciplinary clinicians were recruited and surveyed to determine the target audience and content needs.

Content was further developed and refined via structured surveys, piloting opportunities and teleconferencing at key time points to ensure stakeholder needs were met.

Results:

There was high stakeholder engagement with approximately 80% combined response rates to each consultation round and 100% respondents piloting or applying content of the toolkit and reporting they would use the toolkit in the future at their health service.

The toolkit has four chapters, namely;

1. Nutrition Governance Practices
2. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for malnutrition care
3. Identification, prevention and management of cancer malnutrition
4. Nutrition Service Delivery Models



Discussion

Effective nutrition care needs a system-wide, multidisciplinary approach.

A toolkit for health service clinicians and teams can support evidence based malnutrition practice and guide system-wide practice improvements to embed hospital quality and safety accreditation standards for nutrition care.

A collaborative and iterative methodology has enabled the production of a resource to meet the needs of intended users.

Further work to support implementation and evaluation of the toolkit is planned.

The toolkit is available via www.health.vic.gov.au/cancer/cancer-projects

