



**National Quality Forum
Next Generation Innovator Abstracts
Presented: Tuesday, March 13, 2018**

Malnutrition Quality Improvement Initiative Supports Delivery of Evidence-Based Care and Drives Improved Outcomes

Malnutrition affects 20%-50% of admitted hospital patients, but is only diagnosed in 7% of hospital stays. This low rate of diagnosis can result in adverse health/functional outcomes and is a challenge across all care settings. Quality malnutrition care aligns with CMS goals and the HHS National Quality Strategy. However to date, malnutrition care has not been included in public or private quality incentive programs. The Malnutrition Quality Improvement Initiative (MQii) was established as an innovative, multi-stakeholder national effort to raise awareness/develop tools for hospital-based providers to improve malnutrition quality standards. A hospital Learning Collaborative generated evidence on best practices by using a dual-pronged approach of de novo electronic clinical quality measures and a novel online toolkit to improve malnutrition care. Equipped with these complimentary tools, a cohort of 35 hospitals at the forefront of care implemented QI projects focused on improving malnutrition risk identification/risk reduction workflows. The results provide some of the first real-world evidence of a demonstrated/quantifiable gap in care which previous research has linked to poorer clinical outcomes for patients and higher costs for healthcare systems. The results further underscore that data-driven QI supports delivery of evidence-based care and can successfully impact meaningful process measures and outcomes improvements.

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