

# Exploring community healthcare staff experiences of current screening and treatment practices for malnutrition –

## Baseline survey results from the Implementing Nutrition Screening in Community Care for Older People (INSCOPE) process evaluation project.

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### Aims

- Evaluate implementation of a new procedure and associated training for screening and treatment of malnutrition, developed specifically for community settings.
- Inform further development and rollout across Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust.



### Procedure and training

#### Procedure:

Adapts existing policy with respect to screening and treatment of malnutrition for community settings.

- Patients at **medium or high risk of malnutrition ('MUST' score of 1 or more)** require **monthly re-screening and follow up**; patients at **low risk now re-screened annually**, unless there is a significant change in health status.
- **Provision of malnutrition information resource sheets to medium and high-risk patients now a mandatory activity.**
- **Electronic patient records system (RiO) now includes facility for malnutrition screening and care planning information.**
- Emphasises the responsibility of **staff at all roles and grades for malnutrition screening and delivery of appropriate treatment.**

#### Training:

Staff will be provided with a one-hour session delivered by a dietitian.

### Methods

#### Participants:

- Nursing and allied health professionals (AHPs) working within Integrated Community (ICTs) and Older People's Mental Health Teams (n=73)

#### Data collection (at all observation points):

- 23-item questionnaire (NoMad) (completed by all participants)
- Semi-structured telephone interview exploring survey responses (completed by a sub-sample of respondents)

#### Observation points:

- T0 (baseline – prior to implementation of the training; findings reported in this poster)
- T1 (2 months following implementation of the training)
- T2 (6 months following implementation of the training)

#### Data analysis:

- Descriptive statistical reporting of questionnaire results.
- Deductive thematic analysis of interview data, informed by Normalization Process Theory (May & Finch, 2007)

### Baseline (T0) results

- *Strong support for, and value placed upon, nutrition screening and treatment activity by participants.*

Statements	Responses (n=73 participants)
Staff see screening and treatment of malnutrition as <b>worthwhile</b>	91% strongly/agreed
Screening and treatment of malnutrition is a <b>legitimate part of my role</b>	95% strongly/agreed
I will <b>continue to support</b> screening and treatment of malnutrition	97% strongly/agreed

- *Ambivalence / doubt exists among participants regarding current logistical and organisational support for screening and treatment related activity.*

Statements	Responses (n=73 participants)
There are <b>key people who drive screening and treatment of malnutrition forward and get others involved</b>	59% ambivalent (44%) or strongly/disagreed (15%)
<b>Work is assigned to those with skills appropriate to screening and treatment of malnutrition</b>	66% ambivalent (46%) or strongly/disagreed (20%)
<b>Sufficient training is provided to enable staff to implement screening and treatment of malnutrition</b>	63% strongly/disagreed (40%) or were ambivalent (23%)
<b>Sufficient resources are available to support screening and treatment of malnutrition</b>	59% ambivalent (40%) or strongly/disagreed (19%)
<b>Management adequately supports screening and treatment for malnutrition</b>	45% ambivalent (34%) or strongly/disagreed (11%)



### Next steps

- Second round (T1) of questionnaires/interviews to **explore impact of implementation and training.**
- Action T1 findings to **develop implementation of the training.**
- Explore development of **e-learning resources, and nutrition champions** to aid implementation.
- Third round (T2) of questionnaires/interviews to **explore impact of procedure development, and organisational recommendations.**
- **Evaluate** programme; if successful, **roll out** across Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust.

#### References:

May C, Finch T. Implementing, Embedding, and Integrating Practices: An Outline of Normalization Process Theory. Sociology [Internet]. SAGE Publications Ltd; 2009;43:535–54. Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0038038509103208>

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