Strong support for, and value placed upon, nutrition screening and treatment practices for malnutrition – Baseline survey results from the Implementing Nutrition Screening in Community Care for Older People (INSCCOPe) process evaluation project.

by M. Bracher1, J. Murphy, K. Wallis2, K. Steward3, C.R. May4, C.B. Matheson4
1Ageing and Dementia Research Centre, Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, Bournemouth University, Bournemouth, UK, BH1 3LT
2Wessex Academic Health Sciences Network, Chilworth, UK, SO16 7NP
3Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust, Southampton, UK, SO40 2RZ
4Faculty of Health Sciences, Building 67, University of Southampton, Southampton, UK, SO17 1BJ

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.

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

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

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

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:

Email: mbracher@bournemouth.ac.uk
Web: https://research.bournemouth.ac.uk/project/inscccope-implementing-nutrition-screening-in-community-care-for-older-people/