



## **International Nutrition QI Project Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Eligibility Criteria**

Q1. What if a patient is ventilated prior to their admission to the ICU i.e. they are transferred from another facility or come from emerg. already ventilated, do they meet the criteria ?

*A1: Yes, if they are still ventilated on admission to the ICU and stay in the ICU > 3 days, they meet the criteria. When completing the paper forms leave date mechanical ventilation started blank, when online tick 'ventilation started prior to ICU admission'.*

Q2. What if a patient was admitted to the ICU, included in the study, then discharged or transferred and then readmitted again, do you collect data for this patient as if it was a single admission, or register the patient separately for each admission?

*A2. If the patient was re-admitted to the ICU within 24 hours of discharge/transfer consider this as if the patient never left the ICU and continue data collection as if for one admission. If greater than 24 hours elapsed between discharge/transfer and readmission, do not include the patients second admission and select the next eligible patient.*

Q3. What about chronically ventilated patients who may have been in the ICU > 1 month at the time of screening, do they meet the criteria?

*A3. Yes, include these patients. You will need to review their patient chart and extract the data retrospectively for their admission to the ICU and first 12 days of ICU stay. However, during this process, if you find that there is a lot of missing data and the patient record is incomplete please exclude this patient and select the next eligible patient.*

### **User Registration**

Q4. I registered 2 days ago and have not received an e-mail with my username. Is there a problem or am I being impatient?

*A4. Your registration e-mail will be sent to you shortly after you have completed the registration form, the source of the e-mail may be recognized as SPAM by your e-mail provider and consequently be blocked or directed to your junk mail folder. Please check your junk mail folder. In the event that you have not received your registration e-mail within 24 hours please contact our technical support at [support@cissec.com](mailto:support@cissec.com).*

Q5. I have registered and logged in successfully. When I attempt to register a patient, I am automatically logged out and receive an 'invalid session' warning. What does this mean?

*A5. It is likely that your browser is not configured to accept cookies from Queen's University, which will result in an inability to properly use the International Nutrition Survey. In most browsers, you have the ability to control cookie behaviour through a "Privacy" menu. Furthermore, most browsers allow you to set cookie settings on a per*

site basis. Instructions on how to selectively allow cookies from the queensu.ca domain in Internet Explorer 6 and Mozilla Firefox are available under 'New Users' on the International Nutrition Survey Login page.

### **Patient Registration**

Q6. If a patient is transferred from another ICU does 'first 24 hours of admission to ICU' refer to their initial admission to another ICU or admission to our ICU?

A6. For the purposes of data collection, 'first 24 hours of admission to ICU' refers to admission to your ICU. This is because it would be difficult to obtain all the necessary data required for patient registration (i.e. admission diagnosis, ARDS, Apache II) for their initial admission at another institution.

Q7. If a patient is admitted to hospital for an elective hip replacement but experiences a respiratory arrest post-op which requires ICU admission, what do I complete for admission category and admission diagnosis?

A7. Use the category and diagnosis that resulted in the admission to the ICU i.e. medical and respiratory arrest.

Q8. When do I complete head of the bed elevation?

A8. Head of bed elevation should be observed at the time of screening (i.e. when the patient is included in the study). This can be at any time of day. This observation also includes patients who were admitted to the ICU >12 days prior to screening and who's 12 days of daily data will consequently not include the day of screening. If a patient is admitted and discharged from the ICU before screening and therefore cannot be observed, please review the patient chart, if no HOB elevation is recorded in the chart, leave this field blank.

Q9. I do not work in the ICU every day/weekends, do I exclude these days from the survey?

A9. No, please review the patient chart retrospectively and collect the necessary data for each consecutive day.

Q10. When completing the APACHE II worksheet, how do I know what the most abnormal or deranged value is?

A10. Please refer to the APACHE ranges form available on our website [www.criticalcarenutrition.com](http://www.criticalcarenutrition.com) under international survey / resources.

Q11. I have recorded the APACHE II score that was documented in the patients chart, do I have to complete the APACHE II worksheet?

A11. No, there is no need to complete the worksheet, directly enter the score on the patient registration form.

Q12. I have completed the APACHE II worksheet but after saving the form the score appears as '???' under Patient Summary on the Patient Status page, what does this mean?

A12. There has been an error in completing the APACHE II worksheet or one or more fields are missing. Click on 'edit APACHE II worksheet' and review the data entered, save the form, and the score will appear under Patient Summary. If '???' persists please contact us and we will help you to resolve the problem.

## **Nutrition Assessment**

Q13. I am unable to obtain actual height and weight, what do I do?

A13. *Observe the patient and estimate height/weight, ask family members or nursing staff for an estimated height/weight, or review the patient chart for previous documentation of height/weight. When entering data online, check the 'estimated?' box.*

Q14. If I used an unadjusted estimated weight to calculate nutritional requirements, which option do I select '#1 Actual body weight' or '#7 other'.

A14. *Select '#1 actual body weight'.*

Q15. Does the prescribed energy intake refer to the calculated nutritional requirements or the prescribed feeding regimen?

A15. *The prescribed feeding regimen. Please record the calories that the FINAL RATE of EN or PN would provide according to your prescription. It is expected that most ICU patients will not receive 100% of their prescribed rate in the early days.*

Q16. What if a nutritional assessment was not completed, do I leave the nutritional assessment form blank?

A16. *No, we need the nutritional assessment information in order to calculate the patients nutritional adequacy. Please review the patient chart retrospectively and calculate what the patients prescription would have been if a nutritional assessment had been completed. Alternatively, if a standard regimen is prescribed at your ICU when assessments are not completed please enter this information.*

Q17. What if the patients prescribed intake changes during their ICU stay? How do I record this information?

A17. *You only need to enter the prescribed intake as per the initial assessment. If the patient is re-assessed and the prescription changes significantly, you can document this change in the comments box on the nutrition assessment for (e.g. Day 6, prescription changed to 2000 Kcals, 80g protein)*

## **Daily Nutrition Support Data**

Q18. What if a patient is prescribed an enteral formula containing glutamine (e.g. Crucial) is this considered a glutamine supplement?

A18. *No, only include glutamine supplementation over and above what is present in the prescribed enteral formula.*

Q19. Do I include calories received from dextrose?

A19. *No, only include kcals from EN / PN.*

Q20. Does the route or type of insulin provided matter?

A20. *No, please provide total units of insulin received per 24 hours regardless of type or route.*

Q21. In our ICU, location of naso-gastric tubes are confirmed via pH testing or auscultation and not routinely by daily X-ray. For location of feeding tube, do I select 'gastric confirmed' or 'gastric presumed'.

A21. *If one of these methods of confirming tube placement have been applied please select 'gastric confirmed'.*

Q22. What if EN was interrupted for a procedure or due to abdominal discomfort, do I respond 'yes' to EN interrupted today?

A22. *No, only select yes if EN was stopped due to high gastric residuals or vomiting.*

### **Outcomes**

Q23. What if the patient is discharged on mechanical ventilation?

A23. *On the paper form, please leave the date and time mechanical ventilation discontinued blank. Online, please tick 'patient discharged / transferred on mechanical ventilation'*

### **Web Forms**

Q24. I want to edit my EN data for Patient 4, Day 6, how do I do this?

A24. *On the ICU Status page click on Patient 4, this will transfer you to the Patient Status page for this patient, under 'Daily Nutrition Data' click on the letter Y that appears under EN for Day 6. This will take you to the form to edit the EN specific data.*

Q25. When I enter the patients weight as 57Kg, I receive the error message 'weight must be an integer'. This is the correct weight, so why do I receive an error message?

A25. *The data field only supports numerical data and will not recognize the unit suffix. Please enter all data without the units (e.g. kg, m, %). All units are displayed next to the appropriate data field.*