



## International Nutrition Survey: Frequently Asked Questions

### ***Eligibility Criteria***

- 1. What if a patient is ventilated prior to their admission to the ICU (i.e. they are transferred from another facility or come from emergency already ventilated) do they meet the criteria? What if they are extubated after admission to the ICU, but remain in the ICU?**

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 note that mechanical ventilation started prior to ICU then when online tick 'ventilation started prior to ICU admission'. Please note that *duration* of ventilation does not matter: if the patients are ventilated at any point in the first 48 hours of admission to the ICU, they meet this criteria.
- 2. What if a patient was admitted to the ICU and 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?**

If the patient was re-admitted to the ICU within 48 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 48 hours elapsed between discharge/transfer and readmission, do not include the patient's second admission and select the next eligible patient.
- 3. In our ICU we often have step-down patients and overflow from other units. Do we include these patients in the survey?**

If step down patients were previously considered to be patients in your ICU, and otherwise qualify for the study, yes, please include them. Remember, they must be mechanically ventilated within 48 hrs. Otherwise, please do not include these patients in the study, and only screen patients that are part of your actual ICU population.
- 4. What about chronically ventilated patients who may have been in the ICU > 1 month at the time of screening, do they meet the criteria?**

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***

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

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 [ferrerf@kgh.kari.net](mailto:ferrerf@kgh.kari.net).

**6. 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?**

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 or under international survey/resources on our website ([www.criticalcarenutrition.com](http://www.criticalcarenutrition.com)).

**7. How do I register a second ICU at my hospital?**

On your 'ICU Status' page, click on the link at the bottom of the page that says 'Register New ICU'. Follow the instructions. Once successful, you will have a 'My ICUs' page as your home page instead of just the 'ICU Status' page, from where you can select whichever ICU you wish to add data for.

**8. If 3 ICUs in my hospital are registered separately under the same account, will they each get their own site report?**

Yes, they will receive their own site reports as long as each ICU finalizes a minimum of 10 patients. If you wish to only receive one site report for multiple ICUs in your hospital, please contact us.

## ***Patient Registration***

- 9. 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?**

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.

- 10. 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?**

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

- 11. When do I complete head of the bed elevation?**

Completing head of the bed elevation is optional. 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.

- 12. We record blood glucose in mg/dL at our ICU. Can I enter blood glucose online in these units?**

Unfortunately our electronic data capture system does not have the capacity to allow this. We request that you enter all blood glucose values as mmol/l by multiplying the value in mg/dL by 0.0555. To help you do this we have added a blood glucose tab to our excel units conversion calculator. You can access this file on the resources section of the website. The excel file will automatically convert your values to mmol/l required for the survey.

- 13. Our hospital uses APACHE III scores. Can I enter these instead of APACHE II?**

No, please enter APACHE II scores only. If the score is not routinely documented in the patient chart please enter the required data elements on the APACHE II worksheet and the electronic data capture system will calculate the score for you.



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

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

***Baseline Nutrition Assessment***

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

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 beside the appropriate field.

**16. If I used an unadjusted estimated weight to calculate nutritional requirements, which option do I select: '#1 Actual body weight' or '#9 other'?**

Select '#1 actual body weight'.

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

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.

**18. I use the Penn State formula to calculate nutrition requirements. What do I select?**

Please select "other" and put "Penn State" in the comments field at the bottom of the page.

**19. If a nutritional assessment was not completed, do I leave the nutritional assessment form blank?**

No, we need the nutritional assessment information in order to calculate the patient's nutritional adequacy. If a standard regimen is prescribed at your ICU when assessments are not completed please enter this information. Alternatively if a nutritional assessment was not completed, calculate prescription as 25 kcals/kg for energy and 1g/kg protein. (e.g. an 80Kg male patient would have a prescription of 2000kcal and 80g protein).

**20. If a patient is receiving propofol, I take this additional source of calories into account when setting goal calories for the patient. For calories prescribed, should I enter the prescription with or without considering calories from propofol?**

Enter the prescription BEFORE adjustment for calories from propofol.



**21. What if the patient's prescribed intake changes during their ICU stay? How do I record this information?**

If the patient is re-assessed and the prescription changes significantly calculate the average prescribed calories and protein.(e.g. if the prescription was 1500 Kcals for days 1-5 and 2000 kcals for days 1-10, the entered prescription would be 1750 Kcals)

**Daily Nutrition Data**

**22. Do we count 'day 1' as day of admission into ICU, or first 24 hr period (i.e. 2300hrs on day of admission to next day 2300hrs)?**

Day 1 is the date and time of admission to the ICU until the end of that day's flow sheet (this might not be a full 24 hours). Day 2 and subsequent days is the start of your flow sheet to the end of your flow sheet (e.g. 8am - 8am).

**23. Where is the "Reasons for EN Interruptions" taxonomy? What if there was more than one interruption in a day?**

You can find this taxonomy on page 28 of the Instruction Manual. If EN was interrupted on more than one occasion during a study day you can select multiple reasons for the interruptions by holding control and clicking, and enter the total duration of the interruptions in the appropriate field (e.g. if feeding was stopped 08:00 – 08:30 for physical therapy and 16:45-18:00 due to high gastric residual volumes select these options and enter 1hr 45 mins for total time of interruption..

**24. If a patient is prescribed an enteral formula containing glutamine (e.g. Crucial) is this considered a glutamine supplement?**

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

**25. If a patient is prescribed a parenteral solution containing glutamine, is this considered a glutamine supplement?**

Glutamine added to a TPN solution *is* considered glutamine supplementation, so select 'yes' and click 'IV/PN' for the route.

**26. Do I include the protein from glutamine and supplements in the total amount of protein received?**

Include protein from additional supplements, if applicable. Do **NOT** include glutamine, as it is an amino acid not a complete protein, and because there is a separate field in the daily nutrition data for you to record how much glutamine was given.

**27. Do I include calories received from dextrose?**

No, only include kcals from EN / PN.



**28. Does the route or type of insulin provided matter?**

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

**29. 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'?**

If one of these methods to confirm tube placement has been applied please select 'gastric confirmed'.

## **Outcomes**

**30. What if the patient is discharged on mechanical ventilation?**

On the paper form make a note that mechanical ventilation continued after discharge. Online, please check the box that says 'Patient still on ventilator at time of discharge/death'

## **Web Forms**

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

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 'Yes' that appears in the EN column for Day 6. This will take you to the form to edit the EN specific data.

**32. When I enter the calories received at 1545.50, I receive the error message 'Calories must be an integer'. What does this mean?**

The data field only supports whole numbers, please round to the nearest whole number.

**33. When I enter the patient's 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?**

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.

**34. I've entered all my data, why won't it let me finalize the patient?**

You will be unable to finalize any patients who have outstanding issues. Data fields on the form that are incomplete or incorrectly filled out will appear in the 'Outstanding Issues' list on the 'Patient Status' page. To view outstanding issues, click on the '+' beside Outstanding Issues to expand the list. You can then click on 'Fix' beside any issue to be directed to the page for that portion of the data entry. It is a good idea to frequently check the list of outstanding issues to ensure



you a) are correctly entering data b) haven't forgotten anything. Checking frequently can help you save time, by allowing you to identify, anticipate and/or resolve problems with your data entry. If you encounter any problems and are unable to resolve outstanding issues, please contact us for assistance.