



# Critical Care Nutrition



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## Improving the Practice of Nutrition Therapy in the Critically ill: International Nutrition Survey 2008

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Dear Colleague,

We are writing to invite you to participate in an upcoming international quality improvement initiative geared at optimizing nutrition practices in the critical care setting. We are hoping that you are willing to support us in this exciting initiative.

As you may be aware, in 2007 we were successful in conducting an international survey of nutrition therapies in 156 ICUs in 22 countries across the world. The results of this survey, when contrasted to the recommendations of the Canadian Clinical Practice Guidelines (1), highlighted several opportunities for improvement and raised questions for future research.

We are aware that, for a variety of reasons, many ICUs were unable to participate in the 2007 survey, and therefore we would like to extend the opportunity to be involved in this exciting project in 2008. Completing the survey will allow you to compare your nutrition practices to other ICUs within your own country/region and across other countries. Such comparisons will illuminate differences, highlight strengths and weaknesses, and hopefully lead to practice improvements. The date for the international survey is **Wednesday, 14 May 2008**. The results of this survey will be presented at the Asia Pacific Critical Care 2008 conference to be held in Sydney, Australia, on 30 October – 2 November 2008.

To ensure the success of the 2008 survey, we need a critical mass of ICU practitioners in various countries to participate in this project. We would like to know if you (or delegate) would be interested in participating in this survey. Specifically, we are asking that dietitians (or other practitioners) working at ICUs with greater than 8 beds to collect and enter data on a minimum of 20 ICU patients using a secure web-based data collection tool. We will provide you (or delegate) with a detailed instruction manual on the data collection procedures. The data to be collected includes hospital/ICU characteristics, patient characteristics, the elements of the APACHE II score (does not need to be calculated), nutrition prescription, type of nutrition received, blood glucose, insulin, length of stay, mortality, etc. Some data will need to be collected daily for a maximum of 12 days (from date of ICU admission onwards). The average time spent for data

collection and entry is approximately 2 hours per patient. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer any financial remuneration for the data collection. Rather, the participating ICUs will be provided with benchmarked performance reports that highlight their strengths and weaknesses in comparison to other ICUs in the database. We believe that this report will be of significant value to participating ICUs and the results will illuminate opportunities for improvement and ultimately, translate into improved clinical outcomes for our critically ill patients. Please see our website to review a sample site report.

We are aware of the significant time commitment required to participate in the international survey, and understand that if you have already taken part in 2007 you may not have the resources available to participate again this year. We are grateful for your previous support and hope that you will take part in future surveys. However, if you are able to contribute, please collect data for the 2008 survey.

Ethics approval for conducting the international nutrition survey 2008 has been obtained from the Research Ethics Board at Queen's University, Kingston, Canada. Since this is a quality improvement initiative using data collected as part of routine care, we do not think that additional local ethics approval is needed. No patient identifiers will be entered on the web-based data collection system and all data will be presented in aggregate form only, therefore patient confidentiality will not be breached. However, you may wish to consult your local research ethics board as to the procedures that need to be completed.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our request, we hope that we can look forward to working with you. If you are interested, please see our website [www.criticalcarenutrition.com](http://www.criticalcarenutrition.com) for further information and examples of the instruction manual and site reports. Please feel free to contact Siouzy Morrison at [siouzy.morrison@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:siouzy.morrison@med.monash.edu.au) if you have any questions.

Yours Sincerely,



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