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Attitudes Towards the Canadian Clinical Practice Guidelines for Nutrition Support in Mechanically Ventilated Critically Ill Adult Patients

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Dear Healthcare Practitioner,

Critical Care Nutrition is an organization dedicated to improving the practice of nutrition therapies in the critical care setting through knowledge generation, synthesis and translation in a manner that will translate into improved clinical outcomes for critically ill patients and improved efficiencies to our health care systems. As part of this mission, in 2003, we published the Canadian Clinical Practice Guidelines for Nutrition Support in Mechanically ventilated Critically Ill Adult Patients (Journal of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition 27 (5) pages 355-373). These guidelines were recently updated in January 2007 and are available at www.criticalcarenutrition.com. To accomplish our goal of improving practice and patient outcomes through the Canadian Nutrition Support CPGs, first, we need to better understand the attitudes and perceptions of physicians and dietitians towards the guidelines and its recommendations.

We are inviting you to participate in an international survey of attitudes towards the Canadian Nutrition Support CPGs. These guidelines were developed to assist health practitioners like yourself in making decisions about feeding your patients in the ICU. In addition to the guidelines, we have also conducted various observational surveys of current nutrition practices in Canadian ICUs. Your ICU recently participated in the latest International survey. These surveys, when contrasted with the Canadian Nutrition Support CPGs will highlight opportunities to improve nutrition practices in Canada.

The questionnaire you have been asked to complete is part of this quality improvement initiative. We hope that understanding and responding to the attitudes of physicians and dietitians towards the guidelines will help in developing effective implementation strategies to enhance adherence to the guidelines. Improving adherence to CPGs has the potential to improve the quality of ICU care and reduce morbidity and mortality.

This survey is a web-based questionnaire. To complete the questionnaire please go to www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=435493772265. It should take about 20 minutes to complete. The questionnaire consists of 3 sections:

- Section 1 examines your general attitudes towards the Canadian Nutrition Support CPGs
- Section 2 examines your attitudes towards the specific recommendations of the Canadian Nutrition Support CPGs.
- Section 3 asks for a few personal details.

Throughout the questionnaire, for brevity, the Canadian Clinical Practice Guidelines for Nutrition Support in Mechanically Ventilated, Critically-Ill Adult patients will be referred to as the 'Canadian Nutrition Support CPGs' or 'the Guidelines'. The Canadian Nutrition Support CPGs refer to the average mechanically ventilated critically – ill adult patients and there may be clinical scenarios where these recommendations do not apply. CPGs are typically internationally or nationally developed broad statements of best practice and as such are distinct from other tools adopted to guide practice such as standards, policies, protocols, algorithms and care pathways. Please keep this in mind when completing the survey.

All questions pertain to full and part-time critical care practitioners who regularly work in the ICU, including dietitians and physicians of all grades. You are asked to respond to each question in accordance with what you believe. Remember there is no right or wrong answer. Your responses are strictly confidential; results will be kept in a locked office with a password-protected computer. All analyses will be based on aggregate responses only.

Your opinions are very important to us. However, your participation in completing this questionnaire is voluntary. You may choose to not participate or to answer only those questions that you feel most comfortable answering. A paper based version of the questionnaire is available if this is preferred. If you have any concerns about your rights as a research subject please contact – Dr. Albert Clark, Chair of the Queen's University Health Sciences and Affiliated Teaching Hospitals Research Ethics Board – 613-533-6081.

If you wish to receive a paper based version, or have any questions, require assistance, or would like to receive more information about this study please contact the Project Leader, Naomi Jones (contact details below).

Thank you for taking the time to consider our request.

Sincerely,



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