

Improving the Practice of Nutrition Therapy in the Critically Ill: An International Quality Improvement Project

November 2006

NEWSLETTER



Critical Care
Nutrition

A Date For Your Diary: 25 January 2007

The response to the International Quality Improvement (QI) Project has been overwhelming. Over 200 health practitioners have expressed an interest in participating. We thank you for your support and enthusiasm.

In order to coincide with Nutrition Day in European Hospitals, the date of the International QI Project has been changed from the 17th January 2007 to the **25th January 2007**. Nutrition Day is a 3 year project supported by the European Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ESPEN), the Austrian Society of Clinical Nutrition (AKE) and the Medical University of Vienna (MUA), and involves an annual multi-centre audit on a specific day, assess-



nutritionDay
IN EUROPEAN HOSPITALS

ing actual nutrition practices and changes over time on individual wards (not Intensive Care Units (ICUs)) in European Hospitals. The second assessment will be on 25th January 2007.

Nutrition Day and the International QI Project share the common goal of assessing nutrition practices in order to identify areas for improvement. We believe that this is a great opportunity for a global community of health practitioners to work together to raise awareness of the

importance of optimizing nutrition in hospitals, both in and outside the ICU.

It's Not Too Late To Participate

There is no restriction on the number of participants or deadline for registration, so please continue to encourage your critical care colleagues in your country to be involved in the International QI Project. Although a European focused project, sites outside Europe are able to take part in Nutrition Day, so wherever you are in the world, consider collaborating with your non-ICU colleagues to improve nutrition for all hospital patients. Further information about Nutrition Day can be found at www.nutritionday.org.

Why Do I Need Ethics Approval For A QI Project?

The international point-prevalence survey is, by definition, a quality improvement (QI) project because its primary objective is to improve provision of nutrition therapy, and it does not involve any changes to usual patient care. QI projects do not normally require ethical committee approval. Ethics approval is

sometimes required, however, if the data will be used outside your local hospital. The Research Ethics Board at Queen's University, Kingston, Canada has approved the conduct of this project through an expedited review process, and this will enable publication of the results. We are asking participants to

check with their local ethical committee if additional approval is needed. If you do not have ethics approval by 25th January 2007, proceed with data collection, but do not input the data online until approval is granted. Please contact, Naomi Jones, Project Leader, if you need assistance with this process.

Registering Your ICU

At this time, we are asking you to obtain local agreement and ethics approval (if necessary) to participate in the International QI Project. In January, we will send you an e-mail inviting you to register yourself and your ICU online at www.criticalcarenutrition.com. You will then receive your username and password. You will need these to login to the secure website on 25th January 2007 and start entering patient data.

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