



Dr Trevor Smith
BAPEN President

BAPEN Update

This is my first column of the new year and the new decade! I was only BAPEN President right at the end of the last decade, but having been involved in BAPEN for many years I have been really proud to see how our organisation has developed over that time. We made some incredible progress in the '10s', culminating towards the end of the decade in the launch of our UK Malnutrition Awareness Week, which has gone on to command a great deal of attention. We hope to continue with our mission in this new decade and ensure that nutrition becomes everyone's responsibility.

It's been a busy start to the year in the malnutrition and nutrition support space, with some key developments that you should know about.

Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) guidance for 2020-2021 and the CQUIN CCG indicator specifications

In January, NHS England & NHS Improvement published both the Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) guidance for 2020-2021 and the CQUIN CCG indicator specifications. The CCG scheme indicators are aligned to four key areas which support the delivery of the NHS Long Term Plan. BAPEN was pleased to see that a malnutrition screening indicator has been included within the prevention of ill health section and below is some information on how the indicator will be implemented.

Malnutrition screening indicator

The indicator is applicable across all providers of community inpatient services and care homes with NHS funded residents. The CQUIN goal is for between 50–70% of patients receiving a nutritional screening that meets NICE Quality Standard 24. There is detail in the guidance that improved screening is expected to support prevention, identification and treatment of malnutrition, enabling potentially significant reductions in both the clinical and economic burden. In the detail of the guidance this is linked to a desire to decrease admissions and length of stay in hospital.

The indicator is effective from the 1st April 2020, from which time care homes and community hospitals will be required to carry out a number of actions within the first 24 hours of admission, and then take repeated steps every 30 days thereafter until discharge.

The indicator will be applicable for all community hospital patients aged 18+ with a length of stay greater than 24 hours, and NHS-funded residents in care homes aged 18+. Performance will be monitored quarterly, with payment based upon an average of the four quarterly figures.

The introduction of this CCG indicator specification for malnutrition screening is obviously excellent news that can only help drive up rates of screening in these institutions. We are so pleased that malnutrition

screening has been recognised as so significant, and delighted that there is such clear direction for organisations to engage with 'MUST' within the guidance.

Our goal of course would be for this guidance to be extended to other settings, but this is an excellent starting place.

We will have an opportunity to monitor progress here and I think also a duty to do so and to comment on how this is affecting practice. I will be keeping a close eye on this and it would be great to know if your own Trust has signed up to the CQUIN indicator or if you could bring it to their attention. We'll report back when the first round of data has been produced.

Updated guidance to help combat malnutrition in patients with COPD

BAPEN were delighted to endorse the recent updated guidance on 'Managing malnutrition in COPD' published by Malnutrition Pathway. We would encourage healthcare professionals to download the resources to help with teaching and implementation. It is important to get patients on the correct care pathway and this guidance is an important resource which could be integrated into local COPD pathways to ensure the right nutritional care is provided at the right time.

Get involved with BAPEN this year

If I could have one wish for BAPEN in 2020 it would be that more people working in and around nutrition would sign up for membership! We are always on the lookout for new BAPEN members. For those of you who are PENG members, you will have received your membership renewal email and you can sign up for your PENG membership and also get your BAPEN membership for free at the same time. We want to get as many 'BAPENers' as possible involved in 2020 and members of our core groups are entitled for free BAPEN membership! I would encourage you all to join us. The more members we have, the louder our voice. Please, if you are not a member already, think about making this the year that you join.

Just a final, but very important, note to mark in your diaries, the dates of our 2020 Annual Conference, which will take place in Brighton on November 26th and 27th.

For further information visit: www.bapen.org.uk

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