



An Update from BAPEN



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As the dust has settled on a summer of great political change, I am pleased to share an overview of activities that BAPEN has been focusing on in recent months. On top of that, I'd like to draw your attention to two big milestones that are coming up – BAPEN Conference and UK Malnutrition Awareness Week.

Advocating our new Government to focus on disease-related malnutrition

As the Labour Government marks its first 100 days in Westminster this month, BAPEN continues to advocate for there to be a focus on addressing the serious public health challenge of disease-related malnutrition within the Labour Health Plan. This has involved a multi-pronged approach, including joint letters written by BAPEN, the BDA and PINNT to the new Secretary of State, as well as the relevant health ministers of the devolved nations. In our correspondence, we outlined the scale of the problem of malnutrition across the UK, as well as the opportunity that addressing this issue holds for Labour delivering against its vision for the NHS. It is more important now than ever before to address the malnutrition problem in the UK, tackle the inconsistencies that exist in nutritional care, and improve resources allocated to home artificial nutrition which allows people to care for themselves at home. Doing so will save NHS resources, improve productivity as well as patient outcomes. We have offered to explore this opportunity with key policymakers and hope to see malnutrition considered within Labour's health priorities.

Many of you will be aware of Lord Darzi's independent review into the performance of the health and care services that has been welcomed by Wes Streeting MP. As part of this review, Lord Darzi opened a consultation to gather evidence from across the health and social care sector. BAPEN was pleased to submit a consultation response, which focused on the exacerbated comorbidities and health complications associated with malnutrition; lack of screening for malnutrition; the NHS and economic cost associated with malnutrition; and evidence for nutritional intervention and the effectiveness of nutrition support. At the time of writing this column, the report is yet to be published but we all hope that clinical nutrition will feature in it.

HAN Week 2024

Cast your minds back to a sunnier August, where we were delighted to celebrate the annual Home Artificial Nutrition (HAN) Week. HAN provides vital nutrition support for thousands of people in the UK, and it requires input from a wide range of people; each one vital to the production, monitoring, delivery of the nutrition solutions and services to people dependent on this life-saving nutrition. BAPEN was proud to support the awareness week, and as part of this we conducted an interview with Paul Phillips from Wales who kindly shared his experiences of parenteral

nutrition (PN). It is through the sharing of experiences that we can all better educate ourselves and become advocate for stronger awareness of the benefits and adjustments associated with medical nutrition. Paul's story can be read on our website: <https://bit.ly/PNGSIG>.

BAPEN Conference 2024

BAPEN Conference is fast approaching and I'm very much looking forward to my first Conference as BAPEN President! Taking place on 5–6th November, the programme of sessions looks fantastic. Reflective of the multidisciplinary nature of BAPEN, we're offering sessions focusing on intestinal failure and peripheral PN, sustainability and nutrition and the brain. Thank you to all those who have submitted a large number of high-quality abstracts this year – I am particularly looking forward to the poster walking sessions.

Our 2023 had a record-breaking attendance – can we beat that this year? There's still time to register by visiting: <https://bit.ly/4dYRMBE>. I hope to see as many as possible of you in Gateshead!

UK Malnutrition Awareness Week 2024

Next month, between 11th and 17th November, we will be running UK Malnutrition Awareness Week 2024. Once again partnering with the Malnutrition Task Force, this campaign aims to raise awareness of the prevalence and signs of malnutrition, as well as providing practical support and guidance on identifying and managing malnutrition risk. Across social media we will share important resources for healthcare professionals, including the importance of embedding malnutrition screening into care pathways.

Speaking of screening... the Malnutrition Action Group (MAG) will also be running its annual malnutrition and nutritional screening survey for the month of November. As ever, this represents an important way that all healthcare professionals can get involved with UKMAW. By contributing 'MUST' screening data, we can build an up-to-date picture of the prevalence of malnutrition across health and care settings, thinking in particular about diseases with the highest risk factors and what nutritional care plans are in place. More information about contributing to this survey will be shared on our website and social media channels throughout November, so please do mark it in your calendars and support the creation of important new data. We can only draw attention to the issue of clinical nutrition by having high quality and representative data – please do get involved!

P.S. As mentioned in a previous column, myself, my wife and friends are completing a fundraising walk of the Via Francigena from Canterbury to Rome. Follow our progress on Instagram: [@2000k.to.rome](https://www.instagram.com/2000k.to.rome), or if you are willing to donate towards our cause, please visit: <https://justgiving.com/team/2000k-to-rome>.