Exploring community healthcare staff experiences of current screening and treatment practices for malnutrition –

Baseline survey results from the Implementing Nutrition Screening in Community Care for Older People (INSCCOPe) process evaluation project.

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Aims

- **Evaluate implementation of a new procedure and associated training for screening and treatment of malnutrition**, developed **specifically for community settings.**

- **Inform further development and rollout** across Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust.

Procedure and training

Procedure:
Adapts existing policy with respect to **screening and treatment of malnutrition** for **community settings**.

- Patients at **medium or high risk of malnutrition ('MUST' score of 1 or more)** require **monthly re-screening and follow up**; patients at **low risk now re-screened annually**, unless there is a significant change in health status.

- **Provision of malnutrition information resource sheets to medium and high-risk patients now a mandatory activity**.

- **Electronic patient records system** (RiO) now **includes facility for malnutrition screening and care planning information**.

- Emphasises the responsibility of **staff at all roles and grades for malnutrition screening and delivery of appropriate treatment**.

Training:
Staff will be provided with a one-hour session delivered by a dietitian.

Methods

Participants:
- Nursing and allied health professionals (AHPs) working within Integrated Community (ICTs) and Older People's Mental Health Teams (n=73)

Data collection (at all observation points):
- 23-item questionnaire (NoMad) *(completed by all participants)*

- Semi-structured telephone interview exploring survey responses *(completed by a sub-sample of respondents)*

Observation points:
- T0 (baseline – prior to implementation of the training; findings reported in this poster)

- T1 (2 months following implementation of the training)

- T2 (8 months following implementation of the training)

Data analysis:
- Descriptive statistical reporting of questionnaire results.

- Deductive thematic analysis of interview data, informed by Normalization Process Theory (May & Finch, 2007)

Baseline (T0) results

- *Strong support for, and value placed upon, nutrition screening and treatment activity by participants.*

Statements	Responses (n=73 participants)
Staff see screening and treatment of malnutrition as **worthwhile**	**91%** strongly/agreed
Screening and treatment of malnutrition is a **legitimate part of my role**	**95%** strongly/agreed
I will **continue to support** screening and treatment of malnutrition	**97%** strongly/agreed

- *Ambivalence / doubt exists among participants regarding current logistical and organisational support for screening and treatment related activity.*

Statements	Responses (n=73 participants)
There are **key people who drive screening and treatment of malnutrition forward** and **get others involved**	**59%** ambivalent (44%) or strongly/disagreed (15%)
Work is assigned to those with skills appropriate to screening and treatment of malnutrition	**66%** ambivalent (46%) or strongly/disagreed (20%)
Sufficient training is provided to enable staff to implement screening and treatment of malnutrition	**63%** strongly/disagreed (40%) or were ambivalent (23%)
Sufficient resources are available to support screening and treatment of malnutrition	**59%** ambivalent (40%) or strongly/disagreed (19%)
Management adequately supports screening and treatment for malnutrition	**45%** ambivalent (34%) or strongly/disagreed (11%)

Next steps

- Second round (T1) of questionnaires/interviews to **explore impact of implementation and training**.

- Action T1 findings to **develop implementation of the training**.

- Explore development of **e-learning resources, and nutrition champions** to aid implementation.

- Third round (T2) of questionnaires/interviews to **explore impact of procedure development, and organisational recommendations.**

- **Evaluate** programme; if successful, **roll out** across Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust.

References:
May C, Finch T. Implementing, Embedding, and Integrating Practices: An Outline of Normalization Process Theory. Sociology [Internet]. SAGE Publications Ltd; 2009;43:535–54. Available from: http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0038038509103208

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