

The MQii Toolkit



MALNUTRITION QUALITY
IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE

These materials were developed by the Malnutrition Quality Improvement Initiative (MQii), a project of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Avalere Health, and other stakeholders who provided guidance and expertise through a collaborative partnership. Support provided by Abbott.

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Introduction to the MQii Toolkit

This MQii Toolkit (“the Toolkit”) is a guide for identifying and implementing clinical quality improvements for malnutrition care. It is grounded in key principles of quality improvement and highlights best practices for screening, assessing, diagnosing, and treating adults, age 65+ yearsⁱⁱⁱ, admitted to the hospital who are malnourished or may be at risk of malnutrition. This Toolkit is designed to support changes in the Care Team’s clinical knowledge of and use of best practices for malnutrition care. It aims to do so by promoting a patient-centered approach, improving coordination across the Care Team, and raising awareness of best practices for optimal malnutrition care delivery.

The main audience for this document is individuals at a hospital or health system who assume responsibility for leading implementation of the MQii. Going forward, these individuals will be referred to as the “Project Team,” whose primary members include the executive sponsor, project champion/ lead(s), dietitian, nurse, and/or physician champion, IT developer and/or report analyst, patient advocate/ patient representation. (Detailed descriptions of the various Project Team roles for this initiative can be found in [Table 1: MQii Project Team Roles and Responsibilities](#) of this Toolkit.) These individuals are most responsible for gaining support for the initiative across the organization and introducing the initiative to other staff members. However, as the initiative gets underway, other members of the Project Team or Care Team may wish to consult this document throughout implementation of the initiative. Feel free to encourage use of this document or the additional support materials provided at www.MQii.today.

In addition to the MQii Toolkit, the MQii provides a number of additional tools and resources to assist you in engaging your leadership, establishing your Project and Care Teams, evaluating your current malnutrition clinical workflow, implementing your project, and evaluating your results. You can access these resources on the [MQii Tools & Resources](#) page. You and your Project Team may find it helpful to use some or all of these tools to support your implementation of your quality improvement project at your hospital.

Key Items to Keep in Mind as You Review and Implement the Toolkit

- **Feel free to tailor the use of this Toolkit by referencing the most relevant sections for implementation at your hospital.** This Toolkit is intended to help you with full implementation of the MQii. It supports teams with varying levels of experience implementing quality improvement initiatives. Therefore, more experienced teams may find some of the background sections less relevant for their organization, while less experienced teams will find the same background information helpful for understanding the fundamentals of quality improvement activities and how to introduce them to their facilities.
- **Think about the availability of staff and resources to help you implement the clinical improvements recommended in this Toolkit.** Every organization has varying levels of ability to take on new quality improvement projects. Be sure to connect with your immediate Care Team colleagues, relevant clinical leadership, and hospital leadership to make sure you have the support you need to effectively implement the changes you decide to target to improve malnutrition care. If you have more limited resources or staff, consider introducing small changes to begin and grow the project over time.
- **Use all resources at your disposal to reach your malnutrition quality improvement goals.** Using this Toolkit as your primary guide, you will find that there are many additional resources that can support your teams to improve their quality of malnutrition care. Supporting resources to help you implement your improvement goals can be found at www.MQii.today in the [MQii Tools & Resources](#) section. Use whichever materials help most to train and educate your team for achieving optimal care and outcomes.

ⁱⁱⁱ The first eCQM (“Completion of a Malnutrition Screening within 24-hours of Admission”) is intended for use in patients ages 18+. This aligns with previous Joint Commission nutrition screening standards. In addition, the MQii eCQM Technical Expert Panel recommended focusing the screening measure on patients ages 18+ to enhance ease of patient screening upon admission. The remaining three eCQMs are for use in patients ages 65+.