Organisation and delivery of nutrition support in hospital and in the community

A NICE pathway brings together all NICE guidance, quality standards and materials to support implementation on a specific topic area. The pathways are interactive and designed to be used online. This pdf version gives you a single pathway diagram and uses numbering to link the boxes in the diagram to the associated recommendations.

To view the online version of this pathway visit:

http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/nutrition-support-in-adults

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1 Organisation and delivery of nutrition support

No additional information

2 Education and training

All healthcare professionals who are directly involved in patient care should receive education and training, relevant to their post, on the importance of providing adequate nutrition.

Education and training should cover:

- nutritional needs and indications for nutrition support
- options for nutrition support (oral, enteral and parenteral)
- ethical and legal concepts
- potential risks and benefits
- when and where to seek expert advice.

3 Multidisciplinary team

Healthcare professionals should ensure that all people who need nutrition support receive coordinated care from a multidisciplinary team. The composition of this team may differ according to setting and local arrangements.

All acute hospital trusts should have a multidisciplinary nutrition support team. This team may include:

- doctors (for example, gastroenterologists, gastrointestinal surgeons or intensivists, or those with a specific interest in nutrition support)
- dietitians
- a specialist nutrition support nurse (see below)
- other nurses
- pharmacists
- caterers
- biochemistry and microbiology laboratory support staff
- other allied healthcare professionals (for example, speech and language therapists).
Specialist nutrition support nurse

All acute hospitals should employ at least one specialist nutrition support nurse.

The specialist nutrition support nurse should work alongside nursing staff, as well as dietitians and other experts in nutrition support, to:

- minimise complications related to enteral tube feeding and parenteral nutrition
- ensure optimal ward-based training of nurses
- ensure adherence to nutrition support protocols
- support coordination of care between the hospital and the community.

4 Support in the community

Healthcare professionals should ensure that patients having enteral or parenteral nutrition in the community and their carers:

- are kept fully informed and have access to appropriate sources of information in formats, languages and ways that are suited to an individual's requirements. Consideration should be given to cognition, gender, physical needs, culture and stage of life of the individual
- have the opportunity to discuss diagnosis, treatment options and relevant physical, psychological and social issues
- are given contact details for relevant support groups, charities and voluntary organisations.

Quality standards

The following quality statement is relevant to this part of the pathway.

3. Documentation and communication of results and nutrition support goals

5 Support for person receiving enteral tube feeding

Ensure care is delivered by a coordinated multidisciplinary team, which includes input from dietitians, district, care home or homecare company nurses, GPs, community pharmacists, and other allied healthcare professionals (for example, speech and language therapists) as appropriate. Close liaison between the multidisciplinary team and patients and carers regarding diagnoses, prescription, arrangements and potential problems is essential.
Provide an individualised care plan which includes monitoring and overall aims.

Train patients and carers to:

- manage tubes, delivery systems, procedures and the regimen
- recognise risks
- troubleshoot common problems.

Give patients and carers:

- routine and emergency telephone numbers
- information on the delivery of equipment, ancillaries and feed
- contact details for any homecare company involved
- an instruction manual.

**Quality standards**

The following quality statement is relevant to this part of the pathway.

3. Documentation and communication of results and nutrition support goals

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**Support for person receiving parenteral nutrition**

Ensure care is delivered by a coordinated multidisciplinary team, which includes input from specialist nutrition support nurses, dietitians, GPs, pharmacists and district and/or homecare company nurses. Close liaison between the multidisciplinary team and patients and carers regarding diagnoses, prescription, arrangements and potential problems is essential.

Provide an individualised care plan which includes monitoring and overall aims.

Train patients and carers to:

- manage delivery systems, procedures and the regimen
- recognise risks
- troubleshoot common problems.

Give patients and carers:

- routine and emergency telephone numbers
arrangements for the delivery of equipment, ancillaries and feed
- contact details for any homecare company involved
- an instruction manual.

Quality standards

The following quality statement is relevant to this part of the pathway.

3. Documentation and communication of results and nutrition support goals

7 Nutrition steering committee

All hospital trusts should have a nutrition steering committee working within the clinical governance framework.

Members of the nutrition steering committee should be drawn from trust management, and include senior representation from medical staff, catering, nursing, dietetics, pharmacy, and speech and language therapy.
Sources


Your responsibility

The guidance in this pathway represents the view of NICE, which was arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. Those working in the NHS, local authorities, the wider public, voluntary and community sectors and the private sector should take it into account when carrying out their professional, managerial or voluntary duties. Implementation of this guidance is the responsibility of local commissioners and/or providers. Commissioners and providers are reminded that it is their responsibility to implement the guidance, in their local context, in light of their duties to avoid unlawful discrimination and to have regard to promoting equality of opportunity. Nothing in this guidance should be interpreted in a way which would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

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Contact NICE

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
Level 1A, City Tower
Piccadilly Plaza
Manchester
M1 4BT

www.nice.org.uk

nice@nice.org.uk

0845 003 7781