

Exemplars of evidence-based care in practice

Monitoring malnutrition risk utilising the Malnutrition Screening Tool embedded into an Electronic Health Record

WHAT did the initiative involve?	<p>The project aimed to test the feasibility of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Operationalising and standardising malnutrition risk assessment across 2 large ambulatory cancer centers by embedding the MST into the electronic health record 2) Utilising MST aggregate data reports to identify and quantify the prevalence of patients at risk of malnutrition
WHO was involved in the initiative?	<p>MST work standards were developed by the oncology Dietitians and approved by nursing and medical staff for MST administration at every oncology provider visit with a medical doctor or nurse practitioner. Registered nurses or medical assistants verbally administered the MST to patients during their intake assessment in the examination room at each clinic visit.</p>
WHERE did the initiative occur?	<p>Two large adult ambulatory community cancer centers in the Health Partners health system in the upper Midwest of the United States.</p>
WHO was the target of the initiative?	<p>Outpatient adult patients being treated for cancer by either the medical or radiation oncology departments</p>
WHEN was the initiative performed?	<p>April 2017 to December 2018</p>
HOW was the initiative undertaken?	<p>This was conducted as a quality assurance performance improvement project</p>
OUTCOMES	<p>Incorporating the MST into the EHRs to standardise malnutrition screening is feasible in 2 large outpatient cancer centers. An average 74% of patients were screened for malnutrition each month using the Malnutrition Screening Tool (MST) embedded into the EHR. An average of 5% and 12% of patients with cancer being treated medically and with radiation, respectively, were identified to be at nutritional risk with an MST score of ≥ 2.</p>
REFERENCE	<p>Trujillo EB, Shapiro AC, Stephens N, Johnson SJ, Mills JB, Zimmerman AR, Spees CK. Monitoring Rates of Malnutrition Risk in Outpatient Cancer Centers Utilizing the Malnutrition Screening Tool Embedded into the Electronic Health Record. <i>J Acad Nutr Diet.</i> 2021 May;121(5):925-930.</p>