

Enhancing Malnutrition Awareness and Screening in Community Healthcare: A Comprehensive Intervention for General Practitioners and Primary Care

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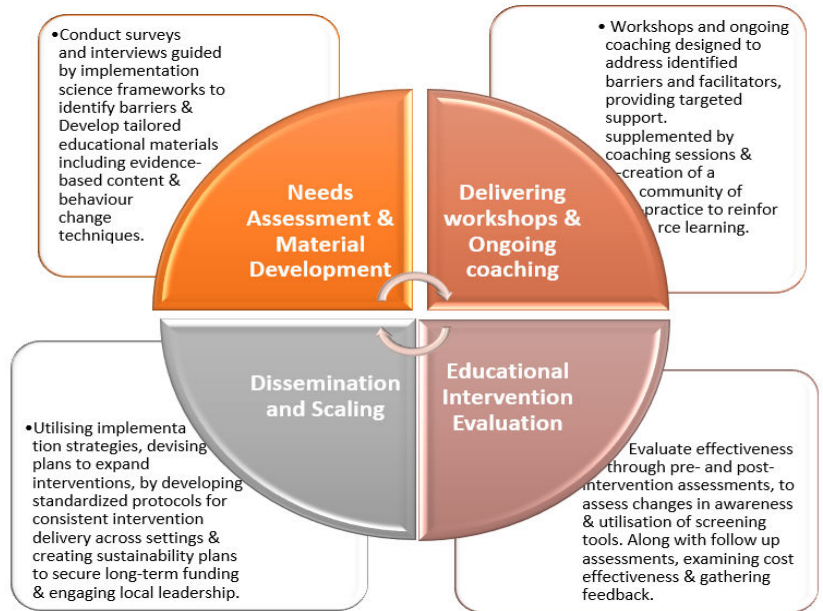


Description of the initiative

- **Background:** Malnutrition is a significant issue in the UK, particularly in secondary and community care settings. There is a lack of awareness and utilisation of malnutrition screening tools amongst General Practitioners (GPs) and other primary care personnel in community settings, which hinders early detection and intervention as well as transfer of care. Addressing this gap is crucial to improving patient outcomes and reducing healthcare costs.
- **Rationale:** By enhancing understanding of the importance of nutrition screening amongst GPs and primary care staff and providing them with tools and resources, we can improve early detection and intervention for malnutrition, at the interfaces between primary and secondary care, ultimately leading to better patient care and outcomes.
- **Objectives:** The project aims to longitudinally assess changes in GPs and primary care staff awareness, attitudes, and practices regarding malnutrition screening tools in primary care settings and evaluate the effectiveness of educational interventions in enhancing knowledge and utilisation of malnutrition screening tools.

Planned activities & deliverables

- **Steps/deliverables:** The project to improve malnutrition screening among GPs involves several key steps as seen in the diagram.
- Additionally, we will also incorporate **process evaluation measures** to monitor implementation and identify improvement areas, as well as provide ongoing support elements including coaching and community of practice.
- **What achievements are possible in the next 12 and 24 months?** Increased understanding and adoption of malnutrition screening practices among GPs and primary care personnel, improved accessibility to educational materials, identification of areas for improvement, demonstration of the impact of educational interventions, successful dissemination of interventions and enhanced effectiveness and sustainability through the integration of implementation science principles.



Resources & enablers

- **Describe personnel, financial needs** £40,000 is required to train personnel to conduct needs assessment, develop materials, and conduct workshops. We do not have other funding opportunities in the pipeline currently.
- **Specify how the grant will be spent** The funds will support the program development, staffing, and materials. Development and distribution of educational materials. Workshop and training session logistics.
- **What factors will make it successful?** Strong collaboration with stakeholders such as BAPEN and Modality NHS Partnership (an existing strategic partner of NNEdPro and the largest primary care consortium in the UK) as well as tailored interventions based on needs assessment findings.

Results/outcomes & expected impact in 12 months

- **How will the findings be implemented?** Adhering to principles of implementation science, We will tailor educational materials and workshops to address barriers, assess processes continuously, adapt to contextual factors, ensure sustainability, and disseminate best practices for widespread adoption in primary care settings.
- **How will this project advance patient care/contribute to optimal nutritional care?** This research has the potential to fill critical gaps in the understanding of malnutrition screening in primary care settings. By elucidating the factors influencing GPs' engagement with screening tools and evaluating interventions to enhance their utilisation, this study will contribute to improved patient outcomes and healthcare delivery and quality in primary care settings.
- **What makes the project innovative?** Targeted interventions and integration with implementation science.
- **Will the project be likely to influence national nutrition policy?** By showcasing successful strategies for enhancing malnutrition screening and raising awareness among GPs, the project's outcomes may directly inform and shape national nutrition policies.
- **Is the project transferable to other settings/countries?** The program's scalability rests on evidence-based strategies and flexible implementation, ensuring effectiveness across diverse settings/countries. Continuous evaluation and resource-conscious planning further bolster its potential for widespread adoption and sustainability.



Please tick to confirm the PEN letter of endorsement is attached.
Incomplete submissions will not be considered.