# GNOME Pathways: Improving Nutritional Care in Primary and Community Care

A practical implementation model to improve earlier identification, referral and transfer of nutritional care

**Prof Sumantra Ray**, Dr Kathy Martyn, Sarah Armes, Francesco Giurdanella, Ramya Rajaram, Dr Jenneffer Tibaes, Sucheta Mitra, Matheus Abrantes
Contact: s.ray@nnedpro.org.uk | +44 7743 988276

BAPEN
*Putting patients at the centre of good nutritional care*

## Description of the initiative

**Background/context:** Disease-related malnutrition remains under-recognised and undertreated across all health and social care settings globally. This leads to delayed intervention, poorer clinical outcomes, and avoidable admission and pressure on healthcare resources. Variability in nutrition education and inconsistent implementation of care pathways further limit the effectiveness of nutritional care.

**Global Nutrition Observatory for Medical Nutrition Education (GNOME):** is a newly created global observatory initiative, developed by the NNEdPro Global Institute with PAN International, to gather annual evidence on what education or disease related to malnutrition across regions, strengthen capacity, and turn insights into policy, curriculum reform and the development of service relevant nutrition pathways worldwide,

**Rationale:** Building on GNOME's work in strengthening nutrition education, evidence generation, and international collaboration, GNOME Nutrition Pathways would move from awareness to implementation, by supporting pilot sites in embedding a practical nutritional care pathway, from screening to implementation, into routine primary and community care.

**Objectives & scope:** With evidence gathered by GNOME, we will (1) implement a practical nutritional care pathway; (2) strengthen professional confidence and capability for consistent use in routine care; (3) measure service and patient-care impact over 24 months; and (4) produce a transferable model for wider adoption across settings and regions.

**Innovation:** GNOME Nutrition Pathways combines GNOME's global evidence and education platform with site-level implementation support, enabling pilot services to translate nutrition knowledge into practical care pathways, measurable service improvement and a transferable model for wider adoption. The earlier identification of need, with planned interventions would support the effective and timely transfer of care between community/primary and secondary/tertiary care, when needed.

## Planned activities & deliverables

**Project management plan:** adapt the nutrition pathway for pilot sites, train staff, embed tools into local workflows, run audit-and-feedback cycles, and evaluate implementation and outcomes.

**Concrete deliverables:** Nutrition pathway guidance, training materials, audit tools, baseline/midline/endline reviews, interim report, final report, and a practical implementation toolkit for wider adoption.

**Within 12 months:** Nutrition pathway introduced in pilot sites; professionals trained; baseline audit completed; early improvement shown in referral, treatment initiation or follow-up; mid-term report produced.

**Within 24 months:** full implementation completed; improvement demonstrated in predefined service and patient-care indicators; resource and health-economic implications assessed; toolkit and scale-up guidance finalised.

## Resources & enablers

**Personnel/funding:** NNEdPro will lead coordination, education, implementation support and evaluation with collaborating clinical and academic partners. Existing in-kind staff time and organisational support will contribute to delivery. No confirmed external funding has yet been secured for this implementation phase beyond organisational and partner in-kind contributions. MNI funding is therefore requested specifically for implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

**Use of the €40,000 grant:** €12k coordination and site engagement; €8k pathway tools/materials; €7k workforce education; €5k audit and monitoring; €4k evaluation; €2k stakeholder learning; €2k dissemination.

**Success factors:** strong local leadership, practical integration into workflows, timely audit feedback, active site engagement, and close collaboration with the endorsing PEN society and stakeholders. NNEdPro has a track record of almost two decades in the field of strengthening medical nutrition education at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels and in dealing with implementation pathways to combat the complex burden of malnutrition including within healthcare services as well as in the community.

## Results, expected outcomes & impact

**Implementation of findings:** outputs will be translated into nutrition pathway guidance, training resources, audit tools and scale-up support for participating services and partner organisations.

**Clinical practice impact:** the project will strengthen earlier identification, referral, treatment initiation and follow-up as well as transfer of care for patients at nutritional risk, while building professional capability in routine care.

**Expected outcomes:** improved access to nutritional care, earlier intervention, better continuity of care, practical evidence on barriers and enablers, and initial insight into resource and health-economic implications.

**Transferability:** the model is designed for adaptation across primary care, community services and other regions through reusable tools and implementation guidance. The initiative is intended to inform wider service improvement and contribute to practice guidance and policy development in nutritional care at a national level.

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

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