Patients to Parliament -

A quality improvement strategy for optimising nutritional care

Dr Mike Stroud, Dr Ailsa Brotherton and
Dr Tim Bowling on behalf of BAPEN

malnutrition matters

BAPEN
Advancing Clinical Nutrition
Registered Charity 1023927

The Initiative

Building on the work of its 'Malnutrition Matters' campaign, BAPEN has developed and delivered a national quality improvement strategy and implementation programme to ensure safe nutritional care is delivered for patients in England. It is an ambitious nutrition improvement programme that, when completed, will place England as a global leader in nutritional care, delivering outcomes that are unparalleled and beyond our current expectations.

Rationale/background to the Initiative

Following the delivery of a very successful 'Malnutrition Matters' campaign to raise awareness of malnutrition BAPEN, at one of its 'Think Tank' meetings, identified barriers to achieving good nutritional care in England, including gaps in available resources, a lack of baseline data, poor understanding amongst executive level NHS managers and commissioners and a lack of nutritional outcome measures. BAPEN therefore turned its focus to driving quality improvements in the NHS to ensure the delivery of safe nutritional care at a national level.

Results: Key achievements

BAPEN's innovative initiative has brought together Improvement Scientists with Nutrition Experts to drive quality improvements in nutritional care across England.

100 organisations have taken part in the national pilot , working across organisational boundaries.
Key outcomes:



- Use of the BAPEN toolkit to meet quality standards in nutritional care: a set of practical tools for commissioners and providers to asses local need and commission appropriate nutritional care, promoted by the Department of Health, hosted on NHS Evidence and widely utilised
- BAPEN's OFNOSH[3] and 'Digesting OFNOSH' (Organisation of Food and Nutrition Support in Hospitals) promoted in the national improvement programme to support teams to organise for good nutritional care
- BAPEN 'MUST' e-learning modules for hospitals and community: provided to participating organisations in the national pilot
- BAPEN Nutrition Screening Week 2010 and 2011: establishing the risk of malnutrition on admission to hospital & care settings and indicating prevalence in the community.
- Implementation of BAPEN's four tenets of good nutritional care
- Quality improvement methodology with local tests of change
- Working across organisational boundaries to develop nutritional care pathways
- Delivery of exemplar practice: one Strategic Health Authority is bringing together all of the organisations within the region with public health colleagues and commissioners to develop a regional nutritional pathway of care
- Invited papers: BAPEN has been invited to write an opinion paper for 'C linical Risk'[4] on the importance of nutrition for patient safety (In Press) and a paper for the Health Service Journal on improving nutritional care, targeted at executive level managers

References:
1) Russell, C.A. and Elia,M. Nutrition Screening Survey in the UK and Republic of Ireland in 2010, A Report by the British Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (BAPEN) Hospitals, Care Homes and Mental Health Units Nutrition Screening Week Survey and Audit (2011) ISBN 978 1 899467 66 2
2) Brotherton, A.,Simmonds,N., and Stroud,M. Malnutrition Matters: Meeting Quality Standards in Nutritional Care. BAPEN Redditch 2010
3) J.Powell-Tuck et al Organisation of Food and Nutrition Support in Hosptials. BAPEN available at http://www.bapen.org.uk/ofnsh/index.html, last accessed 12.06.2011
4) Brotherton,A, Simmonds,N., Bowling, T. and Stroud, M. Malnutrition is dangerous: The importance of effective nutritional screening and nutritional care. Clinical Risk (In Press) 2011
5) Elia M, Russell CA (eds). Combating malnutrition; Recommendations for Action. A report from the Advisory Group on Malnutrition, led by BAPEN. Redditch: BAPEN, 2009.

BAPEN's work programme – Understanding drivers for change

AIM
To develop a framework to implement nutritional screening and delivery of high quality and safe nutritional care across England

Leadership at all levels	■Department of Health, National Partners ■Boards on Board ■Clinical Leadership
Measurement: baselines & assessment of need	■Nutritional Screening Weeks[1] ■BAPEN's Commissioning Toolkit[2] ■BANs / nutritional outcome measures
Clinical care systems	■Nutritional Screening ■Care planning and pathways of care ■Education of frontline staff BAPEN's e-learning modules
Developing nutritional care pathways that span health economies	■Nutrition steering committees working across organisational boundaries ■Embedding nutritional care into every pathway ■National commissioning board taking responsibility

Implementation: a programme of BAPEN activities

BAPEN influencing the political agenda	• An All Party Parliamentary Group to lobby for good nutritional care
	• Key stakeholder in a proposed malnutrition commission
	• Advising the Secretary of State for Health re:
	  • Calling for the appointment of a national lead for malnutrition
	  • Embedding nutrition in the Quality Outcome Framework

BAPEN leading the development of Malnutrition Resources	• Reports e.g. Combating malnutrition[5] • Commissioning toolkit: Meeting Quality Standards in Nutritional Care • 'MUST' online calculator • Seasonal nutritional screening weeks • 'OFNOSH': a practical guide to ensure good organisation of food and nutritional support in hospitals
BAPEN leading the delivery of a national nutrition improvement programme	• Embedding nutrition and hydration into a Department of Health National Improvement Programme: • Increased use of 'MUST' screening tool • e-learning modules for frontline staff • Implementation of 'OFNOSH'
BAPEN measuring nutritional outcomes	• Advising the regulator (Care Quality Commission) :development of the observation tool for the nutrition standard • Advising the Department of Health:development of Nutrition Nurse sensitive indicators for nutrition • Development of a national exemplar CQUIN for nutritional outcomes

Conclusion

BAPEN's innovative & strategic focus on quality improvement in the delivery of safe nutritional care in England has delivered:

1. A sound base upon which to build the evidence for improvement science and nutritional care
2. A long term strategic commitment to developing nutrition policy at a national level
3. Alignment of policy, standards, guidelines and regulations leading to the delivery of improved nutritional care
4. Commissioners, senior NHS Executive leaders, clinicians and patients working together to deliver unparalleled nutritional care
5. An implementation framework and a Call to Action to colleagues in other PEN Societies: No NHS or social care organisation can claim it is delivering safe, effective, quality care without appropriate nutritional care policies in place.

A framework for embedding good nutritional care at a national level



