

SROI analysis to quantify costs and benefits of a multi-domain, integrated malnutrition care pathway for community dwelling older adults: a social business case about change, to support stakeholders in decision making and implementation.

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2022 MNI Grant Submission_Initiative/Research Project for Optimal NutritionalCare

Description of the initiative

The population is aging rapidly and is expected to (almost) double towards 2040. With increasing age, people become less vital, less healthy and more vulnerable. It is estimated that nowadays 33% of European older adults are at moderate or high risk of malnutrition (MaNuEI). Different determinants from different domains are associated with malnutrition (DOMAP). Therefore, prevention or treatment of malnutrition requires a multi-domain and integrated approach, involving collaboration between health care and welfare professionals. This integrated approach has been defined in malnutrition care pathways, describing the patient journey, the actions to be taken, and the involved professionals to take these actions.

Financial implications and societal impact of these malnutrition care pathways are unclear. The **Social Return on Investment Methodology** (SROI) is a systematic way of incorporating social, environmental, economic and other values into decision-making processes. By helping reveal the economic value of social and environmental outcomes it creates a holistic perspective on whether the malnutrition care pathway is beneficial and profitable. Outcome is a SROI ratio: a comparison of the investments (inputs) on the one hand and the financial, social and environmental returns (outcomes and impact of an intervention) on the other hand.

The objectives and scope of this project are to apply the SROI methodology to calculate social returns on investments of a best practice malnutrition care pathway

Planned activities, deliverables & achievements

The SROI methodology will be applied to an existing malnutrition care pathway for community-dwelling older adults in the city of Apeldoorn (the Netherlands). This care pathway is considered a best practice example. Based on our experiences and results, the methodology can then be shared and further expanded across Europe (and beyond). In short, we will:

1. Define objectives and scope,
2. Identify key stakeholders,
3. Develop a business plan/theory of change,
4. Identify what goes in and what comes out,
5. Value indicators to turn benefits into euro's,
6. Calculate the SROI ratio,
7. Perform qualitative research to better understand the context,
8. Verify both the quantitative and the qualitative results with different stakeholders,
9. Provide an SROI report to communicate to all stakeholders.

This SROI analysis quantifies costs and benefits alongside a multi-domain, integrated malnutrition care pathway for community dwelling older adults. It also enables the identification of those elements that contribute most to the social and environmental outcomes. Better understanding of the impact of the multi-domain, integrated malnutrition care pathway can stimulate implementation elsewhere.

The outcomes of the SROI can:

- facilitate strategic discussions and help understand and maximize the social value
- demonstrate the importance of collaboration between various professionals/organizations in a malnutrition care pathway
- justify financial investments from local government or health care insurances

Once having performed an exemplary SROI in the Netherlands, we will share outcomes and methodology with the ESPEN community and beyond. Time path: Months 1-12: performing the SROI alongside the malnutrition care pathway in Apeldoorn

Months 13-24: disseminate outcomes and methodology nationally and internationally.

Resources & enablers

€ 30.000 in total incl VAT: € 22.000 for 12 months (1-12) for a in SROI specific expert project leader/ management and back-office, € 1.000 compensation-fee for involved organizations, € 7.000 for dissemination, PR, website and materials under the direction of a senior project leader for 12 months (13-24).

Factors of success, outcomes & expected impact

The malnutrition care pathway in Apeldoorn is already in place.

Using the validated SROI methodology increases reliability and thus the credibility of the analysis performed.

The results will at least be described in an international article, to be offered to Clinical Nutrition, and on www.fightmalnutrition.eu.

Contribution to optimal nutritional care

- by demonstrating the importance of partnering with other professionals, organizations and people who contribute to integrated, interdisciplinary malnutrition care pathway.

- by creating insights in costs and benefits, and increasing chances to obtain finances for a multidisciplinary malnutrition care pathway.

Innovative project, influence national nutrition policy & transferable to other settings/countries

SROI is much more than just a number. It is a story about change, on which to base decisions.

By determining the impact in this way, the social business case can be completed.

This will facilitate societal and strategic discussions and help stakeholders understand the social impact of the care pathway. We will share methodology and outcomes of this the social business case with the ESPEN community and beyond.

