PEDIATRIC NUTRITION "AT RISK" SCREENING ACCURACY AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

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Background: Nutrition care plays an essential role in the growth and development of pediatric patients. Upon admission to the hospital, it is essential that patients are properly screened for potential nutrition risk.

Objective: The goal of this improvement project was to assess the accuracy of the current nutrition at risk screening process at MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital (SJCH), identify areas needing improvement, conduct a literature review, and create an updated plan for an accurate and efficient nutrition risk screening process.

Methods: During seven research collection periods, data was collected using the EPIC database. Researchers examined newly admitted patients (n = 217) at SJCH (admitted within 72 hours of collection date) and identified the appropriateness of each patient's nutrition screen after a thorough chart review using current MUSC nutrition screening criteria.

Results: Of the 217 patients examined, 49 were screened incorrectly (22.6%). Of the 49 patients screened incorrectly, categories most often missed during initial screening included: weight loss >5% (51%), not screened within 24 hours (20%), decreased PO intake (10%), NPO status (8%), newly diagnosed diabetes (6%), and miscellaneous reasons (5%).

Conclusion: After identifying that 1 out of 5 patients were screened incorrectly for nutrition risk, an updated screening process at SJCH is justified. While the literature review revealed there is no gold standard pediatric screening tool, STRONGkids was found to have the greatest sensitivity amongst the screening tools reviewed. Incorporating elements of STRONGkids would update and improve the nutrition at risk screening process at SJCH.

Conflict of Interest: None

Funding Disclosure: Not Applicable