



HEALTHCARE NUTRITION COUNCIL

Improving outcomes through awareness and action

Submitted via NQF Portal

National Quality Forum
1099 14th Street NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005

April 30, 2021

Re: Endorsement of NQF#3592 Global Malnutrition Composite Score

To The NQF Prevention and Population Health Standing Committee:

The Healthcare Nutrition Council (HNC) requests endorsement of the National Quality Forum (NQF) Measure #3592: Global Malnutrition Composite Score. HNC is an association representing manufacturers¹ of enteral nutrition (EN) formulas and oral nutrition supplements (ONS), parenteral nutrition (PN) formulas, supplies and equipment. Our mission is to improve health by advancing policies that address and raise awareness of nutrition and its impact on patient outcomes and healthcare costs. Our organization aims to promote nutritional screening, diagnosis, assessment, appropriate and timely clinical nutrition interventions, as well as patient access to specialized nutrition support products and services throughout the continuum of care.

HNC is pleased that NQF is considering endorsement of the Global Malnutrition Composite Score (NQF #3592) for inclusion in the Hospital IQR Program. As NQF is aware, malnutrition is widely recognized as having a significant role in health outcomes and healthcare costs. Addressing malnutrition is essential to improving quality of care and outcomes for patients. To just name a few important considerations, malnutrition has been shown to lead to increased complications, longer hospitalizations and more readmissions for patients being treated in facility settings.² In addition, malnutrition is a risk factor for other adverse clinical events, such as falls,³ and is also tied to higher rates of stroke, heart failure, cancer, and COPD.⁴

For these reasons, it is important that robust nutrition measures are included in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and others, quality reporting programs, including and especially the IQR Program, which tracks care for acutely ill, hospitalized patients. HNC therefore offers its strong support for the addition of the Global Malnutrition Composite Score in the IQR program. HNC also encourages NQF to continue advancing other nutritional-related measures for inclusion in CMS and other quality programs, and we stand ready to work with NQF and other stakeholders on this important work.

¹ HNC members are Abbott Nutrition, Nestle Healthcare Nutrition, and Nutricia North America.

² Silver, Heidi; Kelsey Jones Pratt, Michelle Bruno, Joe Lynch, Kristi Mitchell, and Sharon McCauley. Effectiveness of the malnutrition quality improvement initiative on practitioner malnutrition knowledge and screening, diagnosis, and timeliness of malnutrition-related care provided to older adults admitted to a tertiary care facility: a pilot study. *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*. 2017; 118(1): 101-109.

³ Meijers JMM, Halfens RJG, Neyens JCL, et al. Predicting falls in elderly receiving home care: the role of malnutrition and impaired mobility. *J Nutr Health Aging*; 2012; 16: 654-658.

⁴ A.S.P.E.N. Board of Directors and the Clinical Guidelines Task Force. Guidelines for the use of parenteral and enteral nutrition in adult and pediatric patients. *JPEN J Parenter Enteral Nutr*. 2002;26(1suppl):1SA-138SA.



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HNC thanks NQF for allowing us the opportunity to comment the Global Malnutrition Composite Score (NQF #3592), and strongly supports NQF endorsement of this measure. Should you wish to discuss these comments further, please contact Berit Dockter at bdockter@healthcarenutrition.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Rankin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Rankin
Executive Director