

A Précis of the publication: *Providing Quality Nutrition Care in Acute Care Hospitals: Perspectives of Nutrition Care Personnel*

H. H. Keller, E. Vesnaver, B. Davidson, J. Allard, M. Laporte, P. Bernier, H. Payette, K. Jeejeebhoy, D. Duerksen, and L. Gramlich, *Journal of Human Nutrition and Dietetics*, published online 23 October 2013

The aim of this qualitative study was to have nutrition care personnel identify and describe key enablers and challenges to providing quality nutrition care to hospitalized patients. Focus group data from eight Canadian hospitals participating in the Nutrition Care in Canadian Hospitals study was analyzed and, the following five themes emerged on what is needed for quality nutrition care:

1. A nutrition culture whereby nutrition practice is considered important to patient recovery, and teams work together to achieve nutrition goals.
2. Effective tools, such as a screening tool, evidence-based protocols, and quality food are required.
3. Creation of effective communication and food service systems to support delivery of care.
4. Responsiveness to care needs, e.g. flexible food service system, appropriate meals and supplements and up to date clinical care
5. Clear role delineation – having the right person doing the right job.

The need for system level change, across the country, is evident. Culture change starts with an awareness of the current culture's deficits and the effect they have on patient outcomes. The many complex processes within the hospital that influence food provision and nutrition care need to be examined to ensure that they are responsive to the needs of patients and that staff is held accountable for its activities. Further work is needed to understand, from an inter-professional perspective, how best to move forward with change to support the lasting implementation of proactive processes that support quality nutrition care in acute care hospitals.

To access the full paper, please go to <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jhn.12170/full>