

A Précis of the publication: *Nurses' perceptions regarding the prevalence, detection, and causes of malnutrition in Canadian hospitals: Results of a Canadian Malnutrition Task Force Survey.*

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A European survey was modified for use in a Canadian context where over 300 nurses (response rate 48%), from 11 academic and community hospitals across Canada, completed the survey. The nurses worked on internal medicine and general surgery wards and the majority were front-line nurses who worked directly with patients. A few highlights of the survey results:

- While the prevalence of malnutrition in the hospitals involved in the Canadian Malnutrition Task Force (CMTF) study was 45%, more than 20% of nurses stated that malnutrition was not a problem and 30% stated it was a problem in <25% of their patients.
- The above result is in contrast to the nurses' self-reported knowledge of nutrition assessment, which scored a mean of 6.38 on a 10-point scale. They also considered identification of malnourished patients very relevant with a mean 8.4 on a 10-point scale.
- While 68% of respondents felt that dietitians or diet technicians should be primarily responsible for nutrition screening, 91% of nurses reported that they could incorporate a 3-question nutrition screen as part of the admission process.

Hospitals require inter-disciplinary nutrition protocols and guidelines that assist with the identification and nutrition management of acute care patients. The role of nurses in optimizing the nutrition of hospitalized patients needs to be clarified and systems set in place that ensure nurses play an integral part in the prevention, detection and treatment of malnutrition.

To read the full paper, please go to <http://pen.sagepub.com/content/early/2014/09/04/0148607114548227>