

Call for Commentary Authors: *Malnutrition Care for Older Adults Across Care Settings*

Request:

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Healthy Aging Dietetic Practice Group (HA DPG) is soliciting authors to create four (4) peer-reviewed articles and up to six (6) commentary essays related to the [“National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults”](#) . The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and members of its Dietetic Practice Groups actively developed the Blueprint as part of a national collaborative.

Project goals mirror the Blueprint’s: Papers must offer practical and applicable strategies for RDNs/DTRs to work collaboratively with clinical or community team members to:

- improve the quality of malnutrition care practices
- improve access to high quality malnutrition care and nutrition services and
- generate clinical research on malnutrition quality of care
- advance public health efforts to improve malnutrition quality of care

Authors will create a commentary article that expresses a vision for the future of providing quality malnutrition for older adults. The purpose is to advance scientific discourse in providing quality malnutrition care for older adults.

Vision-based commentary, also called a perspective article, offers an emerging or unique viewpoint on issues, concepts or current practices. It may be supportive of, or challenge, existing research or policy recommendations. These articles generally do not present unpublished or original data.

In general, commentaries will be approximately 1,500 -2,000 words; articles of longer or shorter length will be considered. All manuscripts must be evidence-based and contain references to support the conclusions presented. Content will be presented respectfully and in a professional manner, in full demonstration of the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Code of Ethics](#).

Project Components:

Authors commit to participation in:

1. Virtual Conference week of May 21, 2018
2. May 2018 publication of commentary in HA DPG newsletter supplement.

Required Components:

1. Topic areas should align with the Blueprint's *Recommendations to Advance Malnutrition Care and Services in Specific Care Settings*.
2. Articles must focus on interdisciplinary approaches for addressing malnutrition care in one or more of the following settings, which include (definitions reference – [“National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults”](#) , Glossary of Terms, pages 48-50):
 - a. Acute Care – “Refers to treatment for a patient that is usually brief but for a severe episode of illness or conditions that result from disease or trauma. Hospitals are generally the setting where acute care is provided and include community, rural, and critical access hospitals.”
 - b. Post-acute care (PAC) – “Care that takes place in long-term care hospitals, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, skilled nursing facilities, and home health agencies. PAC services focus on improving quality of life and functional status of patients.”
 - c. Community care – “The blend of health and social services provided to an individual, caregiver, or family member for the purpose of promoting, maintaining, or restoring health or minimizing the effects of illness and disability. These person-centered services are usually designed to maximize an older person’s independence at home or participation in the community. Such services and supports can include senior centers, transportation, home-delivered meals or congregate meal sites, visiting nurses or home health aides, adult day health services, and homemaker services.”

A maximum of 6 commentary essays will be selected based on strength of innovation, alignment with the Blueprint, depth of interdisciplinary team or person-centered approach, and applicability to practice rather than theory.

Manuscripts will undergo an editing process for clarity, grammar and accuracy; editing will maintain the author’s perspective on advancing the quality of malnutrition care.

Initial submissions will include an outline of the manuscript and include:

- a. Names, credentials and titles/institutions of authors
- b. Care setting focus
- c. Tentative title of article

A brief outline should be submitted and contain a references section.

3. Selected authors will be required to sign a release form and affiliations/conflict of interest form.

Required Components and Timeline:

Manuscripts from a variety of professional specialties are welcome - a RDN/DTR or other clinical/community professional from specialties including:

- Nursing
- Health Policy or Administration
- Occupational, Physical, Speech/Language Therapy
- Physicians
- Social Work

Deadline	Task
10/15/17 "Pre-submission Screening Period"	Email draft outline with references to: hadpg@quidnunc.net . Subject line should state "Malnutrition Project Commentary " You will be contacted by a Malnutrition Project workgroup member
10/30/17	Screened outlines submitted no later than this date to Malnutrition Project workgroup member
12/1/17	Author receives edits
1/28/18	Final essay submission
February (date TBD)	Virtual conference training and scheduling meeting
3/15/18	Slides for virtual conference due
5/15/18	Commentary Essays are published
Week of 5/21/18	<i>Malnutrition Care for Older Adults Across Care Settings</i> Virtual Conference

About the HA DPG:

Healthy Aging Dietetic Practice Group members believe the health and wellness of older adults is improved by optimal nutrition and physical activity. Our members are a valued source of information on healthy aging. We:

- Translate cutting-edge research into evidence-based practices
- Advocate to reduce hunger, food insecurity and health disparities
- Promote independence and well-being through health promotion, chronic disease management strategies and public policy advocacy
- Lead the future of dietetics in the aging community
- Have valuable member benefits that enhance practice and collaboration.

Our Mission: Empowering and supporting members to be food and nutrition leaders promoting life-long wellness.

Our Vision: Optimizing longevity and wellness in aging through food and nutrition.

Our Goals:

1. Build and support a diverse membership.
2. Promote evidence-based practices related to food and nutrition for the older adult.
3. Influence food, nutrition, and wellness policies and initiatives related to older adults.
4. Inform members about trends and policies related to food, nutrition, wellness and physical activity for older adults.

Target Reader:

Healthy Aging (HA) DPG members are positioned to meet the needs of the fastest growing older adult population.

Members, many of whom are key decision makers, provide and manage nutrition programs and services to older adults in a variety of settings — community, home, health care facilities, and education and research facilities. They are employed in hospitals, assisted living and long-term care facilities, government agencies, community nutrition programs, private practice and university settings, including:

46.9%	Long term care/sub acute care communities
17.0%	Assisted living facility
13.6%	Acute care hospitals
11.6%	Community-based nutrition services programs
10.9%	Area Agency on Aging

*Percentages from a recent member survey

Healthy Aging has a total membership of approximately 1,660.