Using Patient Outcomes Evidence to Demonstrate Economic Value of Nutrition Support Intervention

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Description
Healthcare leaders are looking for guidance on prudent investment in programs and resources that improve the patient experience, reduce hospital-acquired conditions, reduce length of stay, and decrease readmissions.

In 2017, ASPEN projected the need to expand from an organization promoting utilization of specialty nutrition services to one also clearly articulating the value proposition for nutrition support across the continuum.

This project meets several goals of ASPEN’s strategic plan as it delivered evidence of the economic impact of nutrition on improved patient outcomes and facilitated effective value messaging to communicate with key healthcare decision makers.

Aim
To describe the impact of nutrition care——in specific conditions——on healthcare outcomes and costs.

Actions Taken
Literature search was conducted on 8 specific therapeutic areas (TAs) where nutrition support intervention was administered, and clinical outcomes measured. Five TAs were chosen and the 8 study findings were modeled using Medicare 5% sample to determine cost savings when nutrition support was provided to all eligible patients.

Summary of Results
In 4 of the 5 TAs (sepsis, GI cancers, HACs, surgical complications), when 7 study results were modeled using the Medicare population, the applicable cost reduction results were about $582 million in one year. These results demonstrated value of nutrition support in reducing length of stay and complication avoidance.

Acknowledgements
Funding for the ASPEN Value Project was contributed by: Nestlé Nutrition Institute; Abbott Nutrition; Cardinal Health; and B. Braun Medical, Inc.

FIGURE 1. Twelve Therapeutic Areas (TAs) Plus Cross-Disease Malnutrition Selected by ASPEN Scientific Advisory Council Based on High Impact Conditions

FIGURE 2. Literature Search Assigned Points Using Ranking Rubric (Began with 1,099 Articles)


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