



Optimal Nutritional Care for All

Implementation Conference 2014

THE CHARTER

Our vision a world with optimal nutritional care for all

Every patient who is malnourished or at risk of undernutrition is systematically screened and has access to appropriate, equitable, high quality nutritional care.

The malnutrition challenge a public health burden

- Disease-related malnutrition (undernutrition) is prevalent amongst patients in all healthcare settings around the world, including hospitals, care homes and in home care.
- *33 million citizens are at risk of malnutrition in Europe* – this has an estimated financial impact on European healthcare systems of €170 billion each year.
- *Public spending on healthcare is tight* - resources under pressure mean that nutritional care is often neglected.
- *Lack of awareness* about the importance of nutritional care means that malnutrition risk screening and follow-up care are not undertaken systematically.

Our ambition making nutritional care an integral part of healthcare

- *Improving nutritional care is everyone's responsibility.* All partners need to play an active role: patients, carers, healthcare professionals, healthcare managers, government agencies, policy makers, payers, educators and industry.
- *Improving nutritional care requires a multi-disciplinary approach.* Collaboration across disciplines and sectors is absolutely crucial to ensure the best patient care.
- *Nutritional care best practice to be widely adopted throughout Europe.* The first step is the identification of those at nutritional risk (screening). If we achieve this primary objective, healthcare systems can deliver appropriate nutritional intervention and monitoring, making nutritional care an integral part of patient care. Better public awareness will also help in prevention and management of nutritional issues. Patients and the public should be empowered through high quality, user-friendly information.

Our commitment to advance nutritional care

The Optimal Nutritional Care for All campaign builds on and accelerates best practices in a number of European countries. Following up the support by the European Parliament in 2010 and the adoption of malnutrition/undernutrition in EU and WHO EURO programmes since 2012, the campaign now focuses

on supporting implementation of better nutritional care for patients country by country. By committing to this shared vision, we pledge to collaborate for better patient nutrition in the near future. Let's be the generation who turns this vision into reality!

Who are the signatories to the Charter?

Signatories to the Charter include all stakeholders contributing to this movement: from ENHA members to national medical societies for clinical nutrition and metabolism, patient groups, healthcare professionals, dietitians, policy makers, hospital managers, carers, industry and all experts and citizens with a passion to optimize nutritional care.