

P424**IMPROVED NUTRITIONAL CARE OF MALNOURISHED OLDER ADULTS:****A MATTER OF INTERDISCIPLINARY COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION**

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Rationale: Malnutrition might hinder independence and physical functioning of older adults. Interprofessional communication and collaboration between older adults, their caregivers and health care and welfare professionals are expected to be effective in preventing and treating malnutrition. This study aims to assess current collaboration and communication in nutritional care over the continuum of healthcare settings in the Netherlands.

Methods: This qualitative study consisted of 11 focus group interviews and five individual interviews. Interviews took place from November 2017-February 2018 and were held in three regions across the Netherlands. Participants included older adults, caregivers, and health care and welfare professionals. Discussion guides were developed to ensure all key-concept areas were discussed. Interviews were transcribed and analyzed using a thematic approach.

Results: Analysis of the transcripts revealed six themes (table 1) with corresponding conclusions.

Theme	Conclusion
Causes of malnutrition	Physical and social aspects are viewed as important risk factors for malnutrition
Knowledge and awareness	Knowledge and awareness regarding malnutrition is low among those involved
Recognition and diagnosis of malnutrition	Lack of knowledge and awareness may impair timely recognition and diagnosis
Communication	Even though many tools already exist, communication between disciplines is poor
Accountability	Responsibility for nutritional care is low
Food preparation and supply	Food preparation and supply in different health care settings are below expected standards

Conclusion: Lack of communication and collaboration hinders continuity of nutritional care of older adults. Improving knowledge and establishing one coordinator of nutritional care is suggested to improve collaboration and communication across health care settings.

Disclosure of Interest: None declared