



National Lieutenant Governors Association

Resolution in Support of Addressing Older Adult Malnutrition as Part of Quality Healthcare

3 **WHEREAS**, nutrition is necessary for healthy aging; however, older adults' poor nutrition (most often
4 protein calorie malnutrition) continues as a growing health crisis, and

5 **WHEREAS**, older adult malnutrition is exacerbated by the global COVID-19 health pandemic that has
6 intensified disparities and social isolation, and

7 **WHEREAS**, up to one out of two older adults is at risk of becoming or is malnourished and food insecurity
8 can further increase malnutrition risk, a problem compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, and

9 **WHEREAS**, the cost of disease-associated malnutrition in older adults remains high, with the U.S. spending
10 \$15.5 billion per year in direct medical costs on disease-associated malnutrition and individual states
11 incurring costs of \$25 million to \$1.7 billion yearly, and

12 **WHEREAS**, malnutrition and its complications impact health outcomes for both health systems and older
13 adults and their families, including increasing readmission rates, lengths of stay, and healthcare costs and
14 prolonging recovery, and

15 **WHEREAS**, older adult malnutrition can be addressed by implementing systematic screening, assessment,
16 diagnosis, and intervention across the continuum of care, including through telehealth services, and

17 **WHEREAS**, clinical quality measures can help improve the delivery of malnutrition care, and the Centers
18 for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for the first time has approved multiple malnutrition-specific
19 clinical quality measures for a CMS quality management system, and

20 **WHEREAS**, a collaborative effort among key stakeholders in the public and private sectors continues to be
21 required to reduce and prevent malnutrition among older adults and the *National Blueprint: Achieving*
22 *Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults, 2020 Update* recommends specific strategies to achieve this, and

23 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA)
24 encourages states to develop state-level goals to identify and reduce malnutrition among older adults, address
25 malnutrition risk in pandemic and emergency preparedness planning, include malnutrition care in state
26 healthcare quality improvement initiatives (especially those programs focused on hospital readmission
27 reduction, care transitions, and accountable care), add malnutrition awareness to state public health
28 campaigns focused on older adults, recognize Malnutrition Awareness Week™, and include malnutrition
29 care education in healthcare professional curriculum and training programs.



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30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLGA urges CMS to move forward and adopt malnutrition quality
31 measures in additional quality reporting programs (including the inpatient rule) as well as evaluate other
32 potential policy levers (such as integrating malnutrition in CMS Innovation Center Pilots, Advanced Payment
33 Models, Population Health Initiatives, and the Oncology Care First model) that will support healthy aging
34 and benefit older adults across our nation.

ADOPTED, this day, the 29th of July, 2020.

Sponsors: Lt. Governor Pamela Evette (R – South Carolina), Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist (D – Michigan), Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long (D – Delaware)