

The starting point: A broad Platform of Belgian stakeholders sharing the same goal

An exchange of experiences allowed to develop a five axes plan to optimize nutritional care

Suzy Vereecken, André Van Gossum, Karolien Dams, Jean-Charles Preiser, on behalf of all the stakeholders

Contact person: Suzy Vereecken: belgianalliance.onca@gmail.com



Description of the initiative

Background / context

- Following the participation of Belgium in the ENHA conference in Berlin (Nov. 2015), the delegation that presented his nutritional dashboard, decided, with the support of the federal Public Authorities, to create a national platform to take part at the dynamics of the ONCA campaign at national and European levels.
- Contacts were taken with representatives of healthcare professionals (physicians, pharmacists, dieticians, nurses, language therapists, paramedic, kitchen chefs and kitchen staff...), associations, organizations, teachers, foundations, institutions... even with Public Authorities, insurances, patient' associations, food and medical industry, catering and other services providers*.

Rationale for the initiative

- Since many years, lot of initiatives at various levels are taken by Public Authorities, healthcare professionals, service providers and industry to improve both quality of food supply and nutritional care. But malnutrition stays a Belgian challenge in all care sectors: hospitals, rest and nursing homes, rehabilitation centres, care centres for disabled and at home (Vandewoude M. et al, 2019)).
- Our strength is to pool on a very broad platform of all competences and forces of Belgian partners to create a win-win situation with exchange of information and experiments, to build the momentum, to reinforce current actions and develop new goals together.
- Although the platform is independent, the meetings are organized in a meeting room (with bilingual translation) at the level of Public health Ministry.

Objectives and scope

Five strategic axes are identified and lead to work groups:

- Awareness** and Public relations: to sensitize the population and political deciders on the poorly perceived problem of malnutrition that is related to chronic diseases and ageing.
- Policies** and standards, quality indicators, certification: to be harmonized and simplified to facilitate a benchmarking.
- Reimbursement** of oral nutritional supplements and better reimbursement of enteral feeding and parenteral nutrition: ONS is not reimbursed in Belgium. Due to Belgium ONCA action, some decisions are pending.
- Implementation** of nutritional care in all the health care sectors: hospitals (hospital meals), rest and nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, centers for the disabled... and at home: excellent initiatives exist in the 3 regions of Belgium; exchanging experience could be highly beneficial for each of them.
- Education**: to improve education of medical nutrition for caregivers at the level of pre and postgraduate teaching.

Planned activities & deliverables

Outline the steps to be taken

- Improving global concern about malnutrition.
- Determining concrete objectives in the 5 working groups.
- Evaluating at regular interval the achievements.

What are the concrete deliverables of the project?

- Contact with the Press and decision makers.
- Implementation of policies and quality indicators.
- Reimbursement of ONS.
- Nutritional care: first focusing on hospital meals.
- Education programmes.

What achievements are possible in the next 12 and 24 months?

- The 5 working groups are invited to report about their goals and achievements 2 times/year.
- Awareness**: to contact and sensitize elected politicians and decision makers after the Belgian and European election (May 2019).
- Policies**: to assess the quality of annual hospital reports and promote benchmarking; to increase nutritional concern in the hospital and nursing homes accreditation process.
- Reimbursement**: to obtain reimbursement of ONS in the prep. phase (this has been considered by INAMI-RIZIV as high priority; decision is pending).
- Implementation**: besides exchange of experience to determine the education and tasks of members of the Nutritional Support Team (in collaboration with KCE – Federaal Kenniscentrum – Centre Fédéral d'Expertise).
- Education**: to design content of the education program; the next step would be the recognition of "medical nutrition expert" for physicians, pharmacist, nurses and dieticians.

Resources & enablers

Describe personnel, financial needs

- The functioning of the platform is handled by one person (global manager)
- There are 2 moderators for each of the 5 groups. All these persons are working for free.

Specify how the grant will be spent

- The budget is planned for the next 2 years (15,000 €/y)
- Real cost of the management is evaluated to 6,000 €/y (phone, Wi-Fi, travel costs,...).
- The remaining 9,000 € will be used for awareness campaign, website and support for patient associations.

What factors will make it successful?

- The fantastic enthusiasm of all the stakeholders of this broad Platform.
- The support and collaboration with Public authorities at the Federal and Regional levels.

Results/outcomes & expected impact

How will the findings be implemented?

- Objectives, barriers and results are regularly shared by the members of the Platform.

How will this project advance patient care / contribute to optimal nutritional care?

- The five strategic axes are designed for improving patient's nutritional care.
- The participation of patient's associations can strongly contribute to this objective.

What makes the project innovative?

- The number of stakeholders sharing a same goal: improving nutritional care.

Will the project be likely to influence national nutrition policy?

- This is very much embedded as a component of the rationale of the project.

Is the project transferable to other settings / countries?

- Creation of such broad platform can be an example easily transferable to other countries.

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BELGIAN ALLIANCE ONCA STAKEHOLDERS (May 2019)	
- ABON - BVZD Association Belge des Directeurs d'Hôpitaux - Belgische Vereniging van Ziekenhuisdirecteurs	- FAGS: Plateforme pour l'Amélioration continue de la Qualité des Soins et de la Sécurité des Patients.
- AFMVB Association Francophone des Mères de la Voix de Belgique	- SBGCB/VOZ: Société Belge de Gériatrie et Gerontologie/Belgische Vereniging Geriatrie en Gerontologie
- Arrière Flandria Hogeschool Antwerpen, Coördinat Voeding- en Dieetkunde	- SBMN: Société Belge des Médecins Nutritionnistes.
- AVIG Agence pour une Vie de Qualité. Agence wallonne de la santé, de la Protection sociale, du Handicap et des Familles.	- SBNC: Société Belge de Nutrition Clinique
- BHCT Building Incentives for Tomorrow	- Soc Mut National Verband Socialistische Mutualiteiten
- Bellefleur: Fédération van de industrie van de medicale technologieën. Fédération belge de l'industrie des technologies médicales.	- Sodexo Belgium WVOA.
- CEDE: Club Européenne des Diététiciens de l'Europe.	- SPF SP / FOD VZG: Service public fédéral Santé publique, Sécurité de la Chaîne alimentaire et Environnement / Federaal ministerieel Voltgevoegdheid, Veiligheid van de Voedselketen en Leefmilieu
- CHC Centre Hospitalier Chrétien.	- Special Olympics Belgium
- CHU Gastro-entérologie	- Tar Heide Gezondheidszorg
- CHU de la Citadelle, Liège	- ULB, Hôpital Erasme - NSt
- CHU Charleroi	- UNISER: Union en Santé de Santé
- CHU UCL Namur site Sudeima - UTN	- UPDFL Union Professionnelle des Diplômés en Diététique de langue Française. UPDFL GD Food Service.
- CHU UCL Namur site Site Stablaai	- UZ Leuven
- Clinique St-Luc Brugge - Cellule nutrition.	- VBO: Vlaamse Beroepsvereniging van Voedingdeskundigen en Diëtisten.
- CPAS Charleroi (Département « Soins à Familles »)	- VBO, Commissie Onderzoeking VOTU: Vlaamse Diëtisten Tegen Onderzoek
- CRIC UA: Centre for research and innovation in Care, University of Antwerp.	- VIVES Katholieke Hogeschool: Studiecentrum gezondheidszorg
- CULC: Cliniques Universitaires St-Luc - CLAN et Service Diététique	- Vlaamse Instaatat GEZOND LEVEN
- Diëtisch Leuven	- VVKVM: Vlaamse Vereniging voor Klinische Voeding en Metabolisme.
- Epartement Centrale Provinciale Voedingzorg - Leuven	- WGR: Wie-Gete Kruis WV West-Vlaanderen.
- FNB: Fédération Nationale des Infirmières de Belgique.	- ZORGDEBIDUF Antwerpen
- Fondation contre le Cancer Staling tegen Kanker	
- HE VINCI IRL: Haute Ecole Viroc: Institut Paul Lambin	
- Hôpital St Nicolas Eupen.	
- InterCLAN	
- Institut A. Bonal.	
- KGG Karel de Grote Hogeschool Antwerpen.	
- La Vie par un Fil.	
	- Observator member: CSS - HGR Conseil Supérieur de la Santé/Hoge Gezondheidsraad

