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## Improving the Practice of Nutrition Therapy in Adult Burn Patients: International Nutrition Survey 2014

March 6, 2014

Dear Colleague,

We are writing to elicit your participation in an International Audit of nutritional practices in burn units. This audit is a worldwide quality improvement project geared at optimizing nutrition therapy in the burn setting.

We have successfully conducted international audits in medical/surgical intensive care units in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011 and most recently in 2013. In previous years, we have been ecstatic by the enthusiasm for this initiative, with over 590 ICUs around the world taking part over the last 5 audits. Participating in the International Nutrition Survey 2014 will allow each burn unit to compare their nutrition practices to current guideline recommendations, to other units within their country/region, and to all burn units worldwide. Such comparisons will illuminate differences, identify strengths and weaknesses, highlight opportunities for improvement, and raise questions for future research. We believe the specific nutritional issues in burn units are different than other medical/surgical critical care units. The evidentiary basis informing best practices is weak, the capacity to develop higher levels of evidence is limited, and infrastructure to inform practice improvement strategies is non-existent. We believe we need to develop a mechanism to begin to examine, describe, explore and improve nutrition in burn units worldwide.

As many of you may know, we are developing the infrastructure to evaluate the merits of enteral glutamine in burn injury patients in the context of a large-scale randomized trial (The RE-ENERGIZE study). We have had tremendous response from over 50 burn units worldwide who have signed up to participate in this trial.<sup>1</sup> We want to give something back to the burn community and develop the capacity to do research and quality improvement in nutrition in burn injury. Accordingly, in collaboration with the American Burn Association, we have decided to gear the next International Nutrition Survey in 2014 towards burn units. The start date for this survey is **September 17th, 2014**.

This audit will require the following from participating units. Beginning on or about September 17 of this year, a dietitian (or other practitioner) working in burn units will begin collecting and entering data on a minimum of 20 ICU patients using a secure web-based data collection tool. A detailed instruction manual on the data collection procedures will be available on our website. The data to be collected includes hospital/ICU characteristics, de-identified patient characteristics, APACHE II score, nutrition prescription, type and amount of nutrition received, blood glucose, insulin, length of stay, mortality, etc. Some data will need to be collected daily for a maximum of 12

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<sup>1</sup> If you are not currently signed up to be a site in the RE-ENERGIZE trial and you are interested in learning more or becoming a participating site, please email Rupinder Dhaliwal for more information ([dhaliwar@kgh.kari.net](mailto:dhaliwar@kgh.kari.net))

days (from date of burn unit admission onwards). The average time spent for data collection and entry is approximately 1-2 hours per patient depending how long the patient remains in the burn unit. For more information, click on the International Nutrition Survey on our website, [www.criticalcarenutrition.com](http://www.criticalcarenutrition.com).

There is no contract required to participate in this quality improvement project. We do not offer any financial remuneration for the data collection nor do we require any fees from you to support our infrastructure. In keeping with our past practices, instead, all participating units that have data entered will be provided with comprehensive benchmarked performance report that highlights their strengths and weaknesses in comparison to the recommendations of clinical practice guidelines and other units in the database. You can see an example of this benchmarked report on our website. We believe that this report will be of significant value to participating burn units and the results will illuminate opportunities for improvement and, ultimately, translate into improved clinical outcomes for our burn patients.

In the context of the past International Nutrition Surveys, we awarded top performing ICUs with the 'Best of the Best' Award. Participating ICUs who entered and finalized data on 20 patients and had a feeding protocol in place were considered for the award. In 2013, out of 202 participating ICUs, a total of 116 were eligible for consideration for this award. In preparation for the International Nutrition Survey 2014, we are again encouraging all participating burn units to set their sights high and strive to be the 'Best of the Best'. **The top performing site will be awarded \$1000 CDN towards attending an educational meeting of their choice.**

Approval for conducting the International Nutrition Survey in 2014 will be obtained from the Research Ethics Board at Queen's University, Kingston, Canada. Since this is a quality improvement initiative using de-identified retrospective data collected as part of routine care, local ethics approval may not be needed. No patient identifiers will be entered on the web-based data collection system and all data will be presented in aggregate form only, therefore patient confidentiality will not be breached. Accordingly, interested sites may wish to consult their local research ethics board as to the procedures that need to be completed in order to participate.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our request. We hope that we can look forward to working with you on this exciting initiative. Please see our website ([www.criticalcarenutrition.com](http://www.criticalcarenutrition.com)) for further information.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Rupinder Dhaliwal at [dhaliwar@kqh.kari.net](mailto:dhaliwar@kqh.kari.net)

Yours Sincerely,



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