

Specialized Care

Hospital dietitians are a specialist resource and are best positioned to provide specialized care. This specialized care is provided for a wide variety of conditions and in the case of malnutrition, is especially appropriate for those diagnosed as severely malnourished (SGA Level C). In some malnourished SGA Level B patients, specialized nutrition care may be needed and clinicians completing SGA are encouraged to use their clinical judgement in these situations.

A comprehensive dietitian assessment is the basis for INPAC Level C: Specialized Nutrition Care. This assessment should occur within 24 hours of completion of the SGA. This assessment involves further investigation beyond SGA to understand the cause of malnutrition, such as evidence of micronutrient deficiencies, inflammation, pathologies such as dysphagia, etc. Treatment is typically specialized and requires an individualized nutritional care plan.

"The SGA Cs are the ones we're paying more attention to and might be taking more of my time, but I wouldn't have been able to weed all those out. I would have been doing the exact same thing, a full assessment on every single patient, which is time, time lost that I could have been seeing the patient who really needed to see me in a timely manner."

- Dietitian