

## COMMUNITY NURSES ATITUDE TO PATIENTS NUTRITIONAL STATUS ASSESSEMENT BEFORE PLANNED OPERATIONS

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### Abstract

The aim – assess community nurse attitudes towards to patient nutrition status before planned operations.

The research was carried out in Kaunas primary health care centers, in December, 2014 - June, 2015. 73 community nurses participated in the study. The response rate was 91.0 %. The questionnaire was made by the authors. Permission to carry the study was received from Lithuanian University of Health Sciences Bioethics centre. All nurses in the study was female (n=73, 100 %).

The majority of nurses (91,8 %, n=67) agreed that there is necessity to evaluate patients nutritional status before the planned surgeries. It was found that majority of community nurses (98.6 %) measured patients weight and height, body mass index (BMI) (95.9 %), rare community nurses measured mid-arm circumference, calf circumference (respectively 1.4 %), no one of nurses measured thigh circumference. Majority (83,6 %) of nurses maintained that nutritional status of patient should correct doctors, 74.0 % – dietician. Community nurses answered that sometimes was enough knowledge while evaluating patient nutritional status (n=33, 45.2 %), 37,0 % (n=27) had enough knowledge and 17.8 % (n=13) was lack of knowledge. Often (67.1 %) nurses had information about nutrition from colleagues experience, 61.6 % had from conferences, 57.6 % – from post graduate courses.

According to the majority opinions of community nurses, it is necessary to evaluate and adjust the nutritional state before planned surgeries, although nurses only partially documented the state of patient nutrition.

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