

Cartas científicas

Evidence of improvement of the prescription standard and cost reduction with the use of special nutritional formulae in Rio Grande do Sul state/ Brazil after implementation of a reference center

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Different clinical conditions demand the use of Special Nutritional Formulae (SNF) as enteral or parenteral nutritional therapy, being used exclusively or associated with other forms of nutrition^{1,2}. Food allergies³, metabolic disorders⁴ or short bowel syndrome⁵ are instances in which SNF is fundamental in the treatment and indispensable for the good clinical evolution of the patients.

This study intended to compare the first (period 1) and the third (period 2) year of implementation of the Reference Center (RC) in SNF in a state in the south of Brazil, regarding the granting of the requests of users of Brazilian Health Care System (SUS), characteristics of the proceedings and solicitants and costs involved in the purchase of SNF. The research unit for the study was each request received by the RC for analysis and judgment, and is characterized by a historic evaluation of the data.

All the 1077 requests received in period 1 and the 944 in period 2 were evaluated. There was improvement of the information in the requests ($p < 0.001$) and the percentage of requests for SNF approved ($p < 0.001$), reaching more users ($p = 0.004$). The requests of the undernourished ($p = 0.002$) and the elderly increased ($p < 0.001$) and the repetition of requests in the period

decreased ($p < 0.001$). The estimated cost per user decreased from US\$ 8,742 to US\$ 6,297.

The final result found suggesting a better management of SNF, followed by the apparent expansion of the access of SUS users to formulae. It is believed that clinical indications based on technical opinions by the RC, and the consequent rational use of SNF, have led to economy of public money in the period evaluated.

References

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