QUALITY OF CARE INITIATIVE OF ESPGHAN: FIRST RESULTS FROM 109 HOSPITALS IN 28 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ON NUTRITIONAL CARE AND ANTHROPOMETRIC ASSESSMENT

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A European survey of 109 pediatric hospitals identified substantial gaps in anthropometric measurement standards and documentation, with physicians significantly overestimating the frequency of weight and height percentile reporting in discharge letters.

KEY POINTS

- 15% of hospitals lacked standard policies for weight and height assessments, 9% had no nutritionist or dietician available, and 10% lacked wall-mounted stadiometers for measuring standing height.
- Physicians significantly overestimated documentation of weight percentiles (p=0.008 for PGHN patients, p=0.03 for general pediatric patients) and height percentiles (p=0.0002 for general pediatric patients) when compared to actual discharge letter reviews.
- 50% of hospitals measured infant length with only one healthcare professional rather than two, and 14% routinely used measuring tape instead of a rigid length measuring board.
- The Quality of Care Task Force will survey two PGHN topics annually with re-assessment after educational interventions and repeat surveys after one to three years to measure improvement.

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