

Press Release

18th of May 2020

EFAD recognises the important role of dietitians and appropriate dietetic care during each phase of the Covid-19 journey

Since the Covid-19 pandemic was widely spread across Europe and worldwide, the need and importance of dietetic support and care for the hospitalized patients has been addressed by many healthcare professionals. Dietitians have been in the frontline to support hospitalized patients with Covid-19, ensuring that nutritional requirements are assessed properly and nutritional support is delivered in the safest and most effective way for each patient. EFAD is deeply impressed by the excellent initiatives from its' members and colleagues across Europe and further afield, who have been collaborating with medical societies and stakeholders to develop optimum care pathways and embark on research studies.

EFAD recognizes the significant role of dietitians in the fight of Covid-19. In order to support dietitians, EFAD has collated information from around Europe on nutritional support during critical care. To this end EFAD has produced a briefing paper to raise awareness of the need for appropriate dietetic care during each phase of the journey. The paper includes information on the vital role that dietitians are playing in the response to COVID-19, from acute care to population level advice and support in acute community care, primary care, food service and education.

The EFAD recognizes that most attention until now has been directed at the hospitalized COVID-19 patient in the most acute phase and would like to highlight the importance of dietitians in primary care and rehabilitation after hospital discharge. To that end, EFAD is organizing a webinar on the nutritional rehabilitation after Covid-19 infection, focusing on the support that dietitians can offer at a home-bound level in order to reduce risk of complications and shortening recovery times. Patients who have suffered COVID-19 and have been hospitalised are at increased risk of malnutrition and likely to have suffered loss of muscle during their stay in hospital. Healthcare professionals are working to establish optimal post-discharge dietetic pathways for these patients and current knowledge and practices will be shared in the webinar.

MORE

ABOUT EFAD

EFAD is the voice of 35.000 European dietitians from 33 member associations, and the only organisation advocating for dietitians in Europe. (www.Efad.org).

The aims of EFAD are to:

- Promote the development of the dietetic profession
- Develop dietetics on a scientific and professional level in the common interest of the member associations
- Facilitate communication between national dietetic associations and other organisations – professional, educational, and governmental
- Encourage a better nutrition situation for the population of the member countries of Europe.

Contact:

The European Federation of the Associations of Dietitians
Judith Liddell RD
EFAD Executive Director
+49 2822 68367
secretariat@efad.org

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