

# OPTIMIZING OUTPATIENTS NUTRITION SUPPORT IN PORTUGAL

Associação Portuguesa de Nutrição Entérica e Parentérica (APNEP)

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## Description of the initiative

The Portuguese Society of Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition (APNEP) aims to optimize outpatients' nutrition support in Portugal.

## Rationale/Background of the Initiative

- There is no legislation in Portugal to regulate outpatients nutrition support;
- Access to nutrition support is limited and expensive. This means that length of stay in the Hospital for the patients who requires this support is longer than necessary;
- APNEP has been lobbying the government for over fifteen years to no avail.

## What makes it innovative?

APNEP met, for the first time, the Portuguese junior health minister who later spoke at the opening ceremony of APNEP's annual congress and who also had the opportunity to listen to the Spanish experience in this area (Cristina Cuerdas) and ONCA's campaign - Optimal Nutritional Care for All (Anne de Looy).

## Scope of project and enablers

Activities: A dossier is being compiled outlining which outpatients require this support and its estimated costs. This will then be presented to the junior health minister.

APNEP has also asked to speak at the Parliamentary Health Committee to raise awareness of this issue. APNEP is looking for the support of other stakeholders including the Portuguese medical, nursing, nutritionists and pharmaceutical associations.

We are presenting the results of our multicentric studies to the Portuguese national news media to raise awareness among the general population.

APNEP has held regular meetings with representatives from major pharmaceutical laboratories who deal with nutrition support (ANID - Member of MNI).

APNEP is also attempting to involve patients' associations in this initiative.

## How will the €30,000 be used?

We have already spent a great deal of money during this initiative and we need further support until legislation is passed.

The funds will be used to strengthen the national alliance of stakeholders and develop a national nutritional care plan.

APNEP believes that only with support of all stakeholders can we reach this goal.

We have come so far that it would be a shame if we were to fail in our mission because of a lack of financial support to finalize this initiative.

## Likely results and expected impact

We hope and expect that our proposals will be enacted by the Portuguese parliament over the next twenty-four months. This will only be achieved if APNEP and the other stakeholders keep up the pressure on government so that outpatients nutrition support is enshrined in law.