

Summary – A systematic review of the cost and cost effectiveness of using standard oral nutritional supplements in the community and care home settings.

Despite the known clinical benefits of using oral nutritional supplements (ONS) in patients in the community and care homes there is uncertainty about their economic value. In order to address this, a systematic review was undertaken specifically to assess whether ONS use can produce cost savings and cost-effective outcomes when used in community and care home settings.

Nineteen publications were included in the review which was undertaken in line with internationally agreed criteria to ensure high quality. A meta-analysis, which combines the results of relevant studies, found ONS use was associated with a 16.5% reduction in hospitalisations. While ONS use generally accounted for only a small proportion of the total healthcare costs (average <5%), provision of ONS for up to 3 months delivered an average net cost saving to the health economy of 9.2% compared to routine care. Many clinically relevant outcomes favouring ONS use were reported including improved quality of life, reduced infections, reduced falls and functional limitations.

The review concludes that ONS use in the community produce an overall cost advantage or near neutral balance, often in association with clinically relevant outcomes, suggesting cost effectiveness.

The full text of the article in question can be found at the following link:

insert link [http://www.clinicalnutritionjournal.com/article/S0261-5614\(15\)00191-0/pdf](http://www.clinicalnutritionjournal.com/article/S0261-5614(15)00191-0/pdf)