







E-BOOK 2nd National **Scientific Conference**

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PP-1:

Integrating Nutritional Assessment into the Clinical Approach to Unwell Children Under 5 in Primary Care

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Introduction / Background: Target 2.2 and 3.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) is to end all forms of malnutrition and to end preventable under five deaths, respectively. Worldwide, more than half of the under five mortalities had underlying malnutrition. About 30% of the under five mortality in Malaysia are preventable and contributed by substandard care. Failure of healthcare providers to identify malnutrition as co-morbidity is an issue in the conventional "single condition approach" whilst the local prevalence of childhood malnutrition is still notable.

Clinical experience: WHO in 1995 addressed this challenge by introducing the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) strategy which incorporates holistic management of major childhood illness with nutritional elements. In Malaysia, IMCI was implemented in several states with predominant rural areas. Prioritizing malnutrition, Pahang State Health Department in 2015 has adopted IMCI into the Integrated Management of Malnutrition in Children Under 5 (IMMCU5) manual which combines outpatient and inpatient protocols. The Ministry of Health Malaysia then adapted IMCI into the Approach To Unwell Children Under 5 years (ATUCU5) manual in 2018. It consolidates IMCI contents with common local childhood diseases. Author was an IMCI trainer and involved in the development of both manuals.

Conclusion: IMCI strategy that emphasizes whole person approach with nutritional component would help to achieve both SDGs' target.

Keywords: IMCI, IMMCU5, ATUCU5, malnutrition