

'Groundbreaking' care home health plans

A new plan has been announced by the government in the attempt to tackle malnutrition in care homes and hospitals.

Under the terms of the "groundbreaking" proposals, the elderly would have to undergo a screening process, while training would be given to staff highlighting the importance of healthy eating, reports onmedica.

The Department of Health is to develop ways that regulation that can be tightened up so that nutritional guidelines can be stuck to more rigidly.

Ivan Lewis, the health minister, stated that in some cases the treatment in residential care homes is not up to scratch.

"Too often older people and their relatives tell us of experiences in hospitals and care homes where the food is poor or no help is provided to help people eat and drink properly," he commented.

He added that every care home has a "responsibility" to see that the elderly have access to a choice of different food.

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