

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
JOAN KNECHEL CANCER CENTER
NUTRITIONAL SCREENING AND INTERVENTION**

Effective Date: December 2011

Cross Referenced:

Reviewed Date: 6/14

Revised Date: 6/14

Policy No: ROC NU 18

Origin: Radiation Oncology

Authority: Executive Director

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SCOPE

All patients receiving radiation therapy in the Radiation Oncology Center

PURPOSE

To identify patients determined to be at nutritional risk and requires a plan for nutrition therapy which is monitored, and revised as appropriate to the patient's needs.

DEFINITIONS

N/A

POLICY

Patients at nutrition risk will be identified at consultation by the RN with the nutritional section of the nursing assessment. Ongoing assessments will occur routinely at a minimum of weekly with subsequent encounters. Patients identified at nutritional risk will receive intervention from the RN nursing staff for short term treatment related issues. More complex or long term problems identified will generate a conversation with the patients' primary care provider for a referral for an intervention by an HRMC Registered Dietitian as an outpatient.

PROCEDURE

A. Nutrition screening form within Aria Health Assessment will be completed by nursing at the start of Radiation Treatments. The following nutrition risk triggers are included on the Nursing Assessment screen:

- Patient has decreased appetite (intake 50% or less) for 3 or more days
- Patient has vomiting and/or diarrhea for > 72 hours (not controlled with medication)
- Patient has unintentional weight loss of 10# or more in the past 3 months
- Patient has difficulty swallowing with risk of aspiration
- High risk patients (head and neck cancer, Gastrointestinal or Genitourinary cancer)

B. Patients identified at nutritional risk will receive intervention from the RN or MD for short term treatment related issues. In addition to preprinted nutritional information from organizations such as the American Cancer Society, educational materials will be obtained from the American Dietetic Association's Nutrition Care Manual located on the Hackettstown Regional Medical Center Intranet site under clinical tools.

C. For patients with identified more complex or long-term educational needs requiring the assistance of a Registered Dietitian a request for consultation will be called to the Registered Dietitian and offered to the patient.

D. At any point in the patient's treatment a physician or another member of the healthcare team may request consultation by the dietician for nutritional assessment regardless of the patients risk category.

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Hackettstown Regional Medical Center Nursing Policy 8620.209a Nutrition Screening