



Follow these **six principles** to effectively address malnutrition and improve patient outcomes in your hospital.

# PRINCIPLES TO TRANSFORM HOSPITAL ENVIRONMENT

## *Create Institutional Culture*

- Know the facts - nutrition improves patient outcomes
- Support adequate and appropriate nutrition intervention
- Identify motivated champions among hospital stakeholders

## *Redefine Clinicians' Roles to Include Nutrition*

- Empower dietitians
- Secure physician and nurse leadership
- Engineer teamwork (e.g. daily team huddles) to include nutrition

## *Communicate Nutrition Care Plans*

- Leverage EHR to standardize nutrition documentation
- When present, ensure coding of mild, moderate, or severe malnutrition as complicating condition to primary diagnosis
- Ensure care discussions include nutrition

# PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE CLINICIAN ACTION

## *Recognize and Diagnose ALL Patients at Risk*

- Assure accountability for malnutrition identification
- Use valid screening tool and criteria to assess/diagnose malnutrition
- Include fields for malnutrition characteristics in EHR

## *Rapidly Implement Interventions and Continued Monitoring*

- Establish policy to feed patients within 24 hours of 'at-risk' screen
- Create EHR prompt for diet order when 'at-risk' screening data entered
- Monitor patients' food and oral nutritional supplement consumption

## *Develop Discharge Nutrition Care and Education Plan*

- Ensure nutrition care plan incorporated into the discharge plan
- Educate patients and their families
- Communicate with the patients' primary care physician

To learn more on how you can make a positive impact on your patients' outcomes, visit [www.malnutrition.com](http://www.malnutrition.com).