

As an administrator, you play an important role in improving operational procedures for the care team. You can use these **six key principles** to help guide your decisions for nutritional care process in your hospital.

## Principles to Transform Hospital Environment

### Create an Institutional Culture Where All Stakeholders Value Nutrition

- Become a nutrition champion and provide support for the development of effective nutrition care processes
- Share quality and economic gains to be made by investing in nutrition care with hospital leadership team

### Redefine Clinicians' Role to Include Nutrition Care

- Support nutrition education of clinicians needing initial training and continuing education
- Provide ordering privileges to dietitian for issues relating to the nutrition care process

### Communicate Nutrition Care Plans

- If present, ensure mild, moderate, or severe malnutrition is included as complicating condition in coding processes
- Ensure EHR is adapted to ensure nutrition diagnosis and complete care plan is included as a standard category of medical assessment in the central area of EHR

## Principles to Guide Clinician Action

### Recognize and Diagnose All Malnourished Patients and Those At Risk

- Ensure EHR captures screening data and malnutrition criteria with the appropriate triggers in place for initiating the next steps when positive screens or diagnostic assessment are obtained

### Rapidly Implement Comprehensive Nutrition Intervention and Continued Monitoring

- Provide ordering privileges to dietitian for issues relating to the nutrition care process (eg. diet plans, ONS, micronutrients, and calorie counts)
- Ensure EHR includes automatic triggers that initiate nutrition protocol measures to be reviewed when positive screens are obtained
- Ensure EHR includes a module for recording food/ONS intake data and triggers dietitian consult if consumption is suboptimal

### Develop a Comprehensive Discharge Nutrition Care and Education Plan

- Provide expectation regarding continuity of nutrition care, including discharge planning and patient education

Visit [malnutrition.com](http://malnutrition.com) for more tools, insights, and information on improving patient outcomes with nutrition.

Abbreviations: AND, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics; A.S.P.E.N., American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition; EHR, electronic health record; EN, enteral nutrition; NPO, nil per os; ONS, oral nutrition supplement; PN, parenteral nutrition; PO, per oral.