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 (e.g., 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 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.