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| Name of Policy: Nutrition Assessment and Intervention of Gastrointestinal-related Cancer Patients with Feeding Tubes Policy Number: 3364-104-1006 Approving Officer: Chief Administrative Officer Responsible Agent: Manager, Dietitians Scope: University of Toledo Medical Center, Clinical Nutrition, Radiation Oncology, Surgical Oncology | |  Effective date: Original effective date: 1/2013 | |
| Key words: Nutrition, Assessment, Tube Feeding, Cancer | | | |
| | New policy proposal | X | Minor/technical revision of existing policy |
| | Major revision of existing policy | | Reaffirmation of existing policy |

(A) Policy statement

Nutrition assessment and intervention will be completed for outpatients diagnosed with cancer of the gastrointestinal tract (specifically head and neck, esophageal, gastric and pancreas) undergoing radiation and who require enteral nutrition via feeding tube when referred by a physician.

(B) Purpose of policy

To provide timely and appropriate nutrition assessment and intervention for patients at high nutrition risk due to diagnosis of cancer of the gastrointestinal tract (specifically head and neck, esophageal, gastric, and pancreas) undergoing radiation and who requires enteral nutrition via feeding tube.

(C) Procedure

- (1) When a patient with a diagnosis of head and neck, esophageal, gastric, or pancreatic cancer schedules an appointment with the Radiation Oncologist, the Radiation Oncology Staff Nurse or Physician will ~~notify Clinical Nutrition of the patient's appointment date and time and will~~ complete an ~~Dietitian Referral~~ Ambulatory Referral for Nutrition Services order via the outpatient medical record system.
- (2) The initial assessment will occur prior to the start of radiation therapy, or as close to the beginning of therapy as possible if scheduling conflicts arise. The Clinical Dietitian will meet with the patient in the Radiation Oncology Department to complete a nutrition assessment and provide appropriate education.
- (3) Throughout the duration of the patients' radiation treatments, the referring Radiation Oncologist will manage and monitor the patient's enteral feedings with the input from the Clinical Dietitian.
- (4) The Clinical Dietitian will meet with the patient in Radiation Oncology every 1-2 weeks, or as needed throughout the course of his/her radiation (approximately 7 weeks) to monitor for

- (5) Upon the patient's completion of radiation, the Clinical Dietitian will meet with the patient during Medical Oncology and /or Radiation Oncology follow-up appointments as needed, to monitor for nutrition related complications and will provide appropriate interventions as needed. The patient will be discharged from the Clinical Dietitian's caseload when enteral nutrition via feeding tube is no longer needed, or nutrition status has stabilized.

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| <p>Approved by:</p> <hr/> <p>Marci Cancic-Frey Chief Administrative Officer</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p> <hr/> <p>Kristi Mason Manager, Dietitians</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p> <p><i>Review/Revision Completed by:</i> <i>Manager, Dietitians</i></p> | <p>Policies Superseded by This Policy:</p> <p>Initial effective date: 1/2013</p> <p>All Review/Revision Dates: 1/13/2016 4/23/19 3/7/2022</p> <p>Next review date:</p> |
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