**Nutrition Assessment and Intervention** of Gastrointestinal-related Cancer Name of Policy: **Patients with Feeding Tubes Policy Number:** 3364-104-1006 Clinical Nutrition **Department: Radiation Oncology** Senior Hospital Administrator **Approving Officer:** Chief Clinical Dietitian **Responsible Agent:** Clinical Nutrition, Radiation Oncology, **Effective Date:** 4/1/2022 Scope: Initial Effective Date: 1/2013 Surgical Oncology New policy proposal 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 require 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 will notify Clinical Nutrition of the patient's appointment date and time and will complete a Dietitian Referral 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 nutrition-related complications and will provide appropriate interventions as needed. Follow up nutrition assessment and interventions may also be completed via phone call.
- 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.

Approved by:		Review/Revision Date: 1/13/2016
/s/	03/10/2022	4/23/19
Michele Lovett RD, LD Chief Clinical Dietitian	Date	3/7/2022
/s/	03/10/2022	
Russell Smith, B.S. Pharm D, MBA, BCPS	Date	
Senior Hospital Administrator		
Review/Revision Completed By: Clinical Nutrition		
Clinica Naridon		Next Review Date: 4/1/2025
Policies Superseded by This Policy:		

It is the responsibility of the reader to verify with the responsible agent that this is the most current version of the policy.