Nutrition Assessment and Intervention of Gastrointestinal-related Cancer Patients with Feeding Tubes

Policy Number: 3364-104-1006

Department: Clinical Nutrition, Radiation Oncology

Approving Officer: Associate VP Patient Care Services/CNO

Responsible Agent: Chief Clinical Dietitian

Scope: Clinical Nutrition, Radiation Oncology, Surgical Oncology

Effective Date: 5/1/2019

Initial Effective Date: 1/2013

(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 a consultation 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 Athena.

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.

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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<th>Approved by:</th>
<th>Review/Revision Date:</th>
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<td>/s/ Michele Lovett RD, LD, CNSC</td>
<td>1/13/2016</td>
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Review/Revision Completed By: Clinical Nutrition

Next Review Date: 5/1/2022

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.*