HOD Electronic Motion #1
Subject: Malnutrition
October 27, 2015

The House of Delegates (HOD) conducted a dialogue on Engaging Members in the Need to Address Malnutrition across all Dietetic Practice Settings on October 2, 2015. The purpose of the dialogue session was for meeting participants to:
1. Recognize the magnitude, contributing factors and consequences of malnutrition in the United States.
2. Expand awareness of the impact/outcomes of managing malnutrition (identification, diagnosis, intervention) across all dietetic practice settings.
3. Affirm and promote the role of and the opportunities for RDNs and NDTRs in management of malnutrition.

Based on the dialogue, a series of guiding principles were identified related to actions needed:
RDNs have the opportunity and responsibility

- To lead teams in the identification and management of malnutrition.
- To promote benefits of addressing malnutrition to patients, caregivers, interdisciplinary team members, facilities or agencies and communities, payors, administrators, and policy makers;
- To address challenges and barriers which include: training and education of students, RDNs and NDTRs, educators and interdisciplinary team members; time management; confidence in application of malnutrition management; and need for a consistent process in malnutrition management;
- To minimize risks (i.e., legal, financial, quality of care) to the patient, caregiver, interdisciplinary team, organizations, and the community;
- To apply the management of malnutrition to diverse populations in all practice settings (e.g., hospitals, public health, schools, outpatient clinics, extended care facilities, etc.);
- To engage in advocacy efforts to address regulations, coding, and reimbursement.

Therefore, be it resolved that the House of Delegates requests:

- RDNs identify and manage malnutrition in accordance with their scope and standards of practice including use of nutrition focused physical exams as one tool for nutrition assessments;
- Academy’s Research, International and Scientific Affairs Team and Lifelong Learning and Professional Engagement Team identify gaps and facilitate development of resources needed to educate members on the management of malnutrition, including nutrition-focused physical exams;
- Academy’s Lifelong Learning and Professional Engagement Team and Research, International and Scientific Affairs Team market and disseminate currently available resources to educate members on management of malnutrition;
- Dietetic practice groups and affiliates are encouraged to identify and promote opportunities to assist RDNs and NDTRs in developing skills and knowledge related to malnutrition management;
- NDEP and ACEND encourage educators to identify and/or develop malnutrition management educational opportunities for students;
- Center for Professional Development assesses the viability of a certificate program for hands-on nutrition focused physical exam training;
• Academy’s Nutrition Services Coverage Team collaborates with A.S.P.E.N. to continue discussions with the National Center for Health Statistics ICD Coordinating Committee for incorporation of the malnutrition nomenclature into ICD.

• Academy’s Research, International and Scientific Affairs Team, Lifelong Learning and Professional Engagement Team, NDEP, ACEND and the Academy’s Nutrition Services Coverage Team present information on progress made on malnutrition related activities as part of the bi-annual report to the HOD. This information should be reported for at least the next 2 years by the organizational units.

Originator: HOD Leadership Team