

**Regulation(s):** 42 CFR 418.64((d)(2)  
**L-Tag(s):** 597

**POLICY:** Education and interventions are provided to the patient and family regarding appropriate nutritional intake as the patient’s illness progresses.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. The patient’s nutritional status is assessed by the hospice RN during the comprehensive assessment and on subsequent reassessments.
2. Interventions related to the patient’s nutritional status and needs are incorporated into the patient’s plan of care as appropriate.
3. Members of the IDG educate the patient/family regarding the nutritional needs of patients at the end of life.
4. When the IDG or attending physician identify nutritional needs or problems that exceed the expertise of the hospice nurse or other members of the IDG, an appropriately trained and qualified individual is retained to provide more specialized interventions.
5. A dietitian will be employed by the hospice at all times and will be available for telephone, email and in-person consultations as deemed necessary by the hospice IDG.

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