### PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for the appropriate assessment of patients who may require a nutritional assessment by a qualified clinician.

### POLICY

When the initial and comprehensive assessment indicates an alteration in nutritional status, the clinician will make a referral to a qualified health care professional for further nutritional assessment.

### PROCEDURE

1. During the initial assessment, nutritional information will be obtained and documented on the OASIS as part of the baseline data.
2. If, according to the assessment, the patient is determined to have any of the following, the clinician will contact the patient’s physician and obtain follow-up orders or an order for a nutritional consult:
   1. Nutrition, altered, less than body requirements
   2. Nutrition, more than body requirements
3. Documentation in the clinical record should reflect the physician contact and the order for a nutritional consult.
4. The registered dietician will make entries into the clinical record regarding plans, discussions, and interventions related to the nutritional consult.