Appendix 4: MQii Recommended Malnutrition Clinical Workflow

**Malnutrition Screening**
Definition: systematic process of identifying an individual who is at risk for malnutrition to establish whether the patient is in need of a malnutrition assessment
- 24 Hrs. Following Patient Admission

**Nutrition Assessment**
Definition: systematic approach to collect and interpret relevant data from patients, caregivers, patient family members, and the medical record to establish a malnutrition diagnosis and determine a patient’s malnutrition severity
- 24 - 48 Hrs. Following A Screening Where Patient is Determined to Be At Risk

**Malnutrition Diagnosis**
Definition: identification of and labeling of a patient’s nutrition problem that requires independent treatment that may be unrelated to the patient’s index at hospital admission
- Immediately Following Nutrition Assessment

**Malnutrition Care Plan Development**
Definition: development of a document outlining comprehensive planned actions with the intention of impacting nutrition-related factors affecting patient health status
- Immediately Following Diagnosis

**Intervention Implementation**
Definition: implementation of specific actions outlined in the malnutrition treatment care plan
- Within a Maximum of 24 Hrs. Following Diagnosis

**Malnutrition Monitoring & Evaluation**
Definition: identifies the amount of progress made since patient diagnosis and assesses whether outcomes relevant to the malnutrition diagnosis and treatment goals are being met
- Reassessment & Rescreening Performed Based on Patient Needs & Results of Initial Screening and/or Assessment; See Best Practices Section for More Information

**Discharge Planning**
Definition: documentation of malnutrition diagnosis, status, and orders in discharge plan
- 24 Hrs. Prior to Hospital Discharge for Patients Previously Assessed to be At Risk or Malnourished

**Initiate Dietitian Consult and Malnutrition-Risk Diet Order for At-Risk Patients**
- Intervene immediately for at-risk patients with food and/or oral nutritional supplement per malnutrition-risk protocol to accelerate treatment unless contraindicated
- Conduct nutrition assessment as soon as possible
- Following assessment, any active malnutrition-risk diet order should be reevaluated