

# the Coding Talk...

To Code or Not To Code



## Diagnosis of the Month... *Malnutrition*

The ASPEN Criteria below provides Clinical Indicators to support a diagnosis of malnutrition.

Two (2) characteristics must be present to support the malnutrition diagnosis

*Remind your physicians/MLPs to document with C.L.A.S.S.*

- C = Clinical Indicators
- L = Laterality
- A = Acuity
- S = Site
- S = Significance of Findings



Characteristics to Support a Diagnosis of Malnutrition

	Acute Illness or Injury		Chronic Illness		Social or Environmental	
	Moderate Protein Calorie Malnutrition	Severe Protein Calorie Malnutrition	Moderate Protein Calorie Malnutrition	Severe Protein Calorie Malnutrition	Moderate Protein Calorie Malnutrition	Severe Protein Calorie Malnutrition
Energy Intake	<75% of EEE >7 days	? 50% of EEE ? 5 days	< 75% of EEE ? 1 month	< 75% of EEE ? 1 month	< 75% of EEE ? 3 month	< 50% of EEE ? 1 month
Weight Loss	1-2% 1 week 5% 1 month 7.5% 3 month	> 2% 1 week > 5% 1 month > 7.5% 3 months	5% 1 month 7.5% 3 months 10% 6 months 20% 1 year	> 5% 1 month > 7.5% 3 months > 10% 6 months > 20% 1 year	> 5% 1 month > 7.5% 3 months > 10% 6 months > 20% 1 year	> 5% 1 month > 7.5% 3 months > 10% 6 months > 20% 1 year
Body Fat Loss	Mild	Moderate	Mild	Severe	Mild	Severe
Muscle Mass Wasting	Mild	Moderate	Mild	Severe	Mild	Severe
Fluid (Edema)	Mild	Moderate to Severe	Mild	Moderate to Severe	Mild	Moderate to Severe
Hand Grip Strength	N/A	Measurably Reduced	N/A	Measurably Reduced	N/A	Measurable Reduced

**Query the Physician / MLP for any unclear or Conflicting Documentation**

2 Characteristics must be present for a malnutrition diagnosis.

Reference: Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics & American Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition Clinical Characteristics Malnutrition 2011;

DM&A (additional references available). Revised: 03/10/2016 DM&A Nutrition Division