

Policy/Procedure <b>WOUND/DECUBITUS PROTOCOL</b>			ID Number
Effective Date	Replaces No.	Area <b>DIETARY</b>	Approved by:

**POLICY:**

The Nutritional Support Department will provide appropriate, therapeutic nutrition to patients who have skin breakdown as identified by the Wound Care Team.

**PROCEDURE:**

- 1) Patients who are determined to have skin breakdown, or who are identified to be at risk for skin breakdown, will be assessed by the Wound Care Team.
- 2) Patients who have no skin breakdown or who have Stage I breakdown will not be referred for nutritional assessment unless specific additional risk factors exist as determined by the Wound Care Team.
- 3) Patients who have State II, III, or IV skin breakdown will be referred for nutritional assessment to the Registered Dietitian or her designee.
- 4) Patients will be assessed for nutritional needs and necessary nutritional interventions. Unless otherwise noted, standard nutrition protocol for skin breakdown for patients on regular or non-therapeutic diets will be as follows:
  - a) Stage II - Vitamin C-enriched juice at each meal, 8 oz. milk at each meal;
  - b) Stage III - Vitamin C-enriched juice at each meal, 8 oz. high protein shake bid;
  - c) Stage IV – Vitamin C-enriched juice at each meal, 8 oz. whole milk at each meal and bedtime, high protein shake bid between meals.
- 5) Special consideration will be made for patients who do not like or tolerate milk products. Alternate high protein snacks will be kept in stock in the Nutritional Support department for such purpose.
- 6) Patients who are on therapeutic diets will be dealt with on individual basis. It may be necessary to discuss patient's nutritional care with physician in order to assure greatest possible nutritional benefit within dietary restrictions.
- 7) Patients who are consistently eating 50% or less of the foods offered them present a special nutritional challenge, and the Physician, Registered Dietitian, and Wound Care Team will work together to determine how best to address the patient's nutritional needs. Parenteral and enteral nutrition should be considered for this type of patient.
- 8) Appropriate documentation of nutritional intervention will be entered in the progress Note section of the patient's medical record, along with the nutritional assessment form used to determine patient's nutritional needs. The nutritional assessment form must be signed by the Registered Dietitian.

The Registered Dietitian or her designee will make chart entries on a regular basis to note intake and weight of the patient with skin breakdown.