

**10-15-20**

**PERFORMANCE GAP/ ACTIVITY NEED:** With advances in early detection and treatments for cancer, there are approximately 32.6 million people alive globally with a history of cancer (within five years of diagnosis), as of 2012. Novel methods to improve outcomes, especially those that are also associated with improvements in quality of life and other health benefits, may offer attractive additions to the currently available treatment options [Source: UpToDate]. An evidence-based assessment of how nutrition can benefit cancer patients has been requested by the Medical Education Committee.

**DESIRED OUTCOMES:** At the end of the activity, attendees will be able to:

- identify the risk factors for malnutrition in cancer patients
- evaluate changes in dietary patterns that might help reduce the risk of malnutrition in the United States and improve the quality of life in cancer survivors and incorporate into practice.
- acknowledge the impact of early dietary intervention on malnutrition and loss of lean body mass, and subsequent survival, treatment tolerance vs toxicity, length of stay, re-admissions, increased hospital costs and quality of life.
- refer patients to resources for patient education, dietitian consult referrals, programs offered free of charge through the Disney Cancer Center.