



RMC to participate in 'nutritionDay' on Thursday



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The Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties will participate in nutritionDay on Nov. 19, an annual event designed to address patient malnutrition in hospitals. The event features hospital malnutrition awareness and educational opportunities, and will be orchestrated by Morrison Healthcare's 1,200 registered dietitians throughout the food service company's 600-plus hospitals.

"Nearly half of the patients walking into hospitals today are malnourished or obese," said Peggy O'Neill, Morrison Healthcare vice president of nutrition and wellness. "We are proud of our nutritionDay in the U.S. partnership and the strong platform it provides Morrison Healthcare dietitians to help our hospital clients better understand patient malnutrition risks and have healthier patients during hospitalization and after discharge.

"We believe this important program will positively impact in-patient cost avoidance, lead to opportunities to increase reimbursement and reduce the risk for re-admissions, all of which directly affect the fiscal health of the hospital."

The observance is part of the nutritionDay Worldwide initiative. The mission of nutritionDay, which originated in Europe nine years ago, is to address the inertia that often characterizes how hospitals deal with patient malnutrition. Morrison Healthcare's registered dietitians oversee the day-to-day nutrition services of the patients it serves. The partnership with Morrison Healthcare has been established in an effort to help hospitals in the U.S. document and improve patient nourishment and related outcomes and associated costs.

"For more than 35 years, it has been well documented that 55 to 65 percent of hospitalized patients are malnourished or are at risk of malnutrition," said Gail Gewirtz, MS, RD, national project coordinator/president of nutritionDay in the U.S. "The hospital management response to this issue is typically that 'it's not happening at their hospital or they need outcome data to justify nourishing their patients.' nutritionDay does provide participating hospitals with their outcome data related to nutritional care. Patient malnutrition contributes to poor healing, increased morbidity and mortality and increased costs."