Clinic directors throughout the practice participated in a survey to assess:

- The presence or absence of a malnutrition screen and the tool used
- How nutrition concerns are addressed in clinic
- The availability of a dietitian

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Recent literature has noted the lack of both adequate dietitian resources at outpatient centers and lack of comprehensive nutrition guidelines in cancer care1,2,3.

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Establishing the Need for Provider Education on Cancer and Nutrition (PECAN) Survey Results on Nutrition Practices at a Large Community Oncology Practice

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BACKGROUND

- Oncology providers and patients benefit from evidence-based nutritional resources to support cancer care.
- For patients, proper nutrition care can prevent inappropriate weight loss, improve treatment tolerance, and improve quality of life.
- Recent literature has noted the lack of both adequate dietitian resources at outpatient centers and lack of comprehensive nutrition guidelines in cancer care1,2,3.
- At a large community practice with 210 locations across Texas and Southern Oklahoma a survey was developed and administered to assess nutrition practices.

METHODS

- Clinic directors throughout the practice participated in a survey to assess:
  - The presence or absence of a malnutrition screen and the tool used
  - How nutrition concerns are addressed in clinic
  - The availability of a dietitian
- Multiple providers are involved in the nutritional care of oncology patients.
- There is a need for increased malnutrition screening and increased access to dietitian services.
- In response to these findings, the multidisciplinary PECAN Taskforce was created to develop comprehensive malnutrition screening, implement a referral process for all at-risk patients, enhance nutrition education and expand dietitian services.
- Further study will measure the impact of expanded nutrition access on patient outcomes.