How to find a Registered Dietitian (RD)

(1) Ask your doctor if your cancer treatment facility has an RD on staff to see outpatients going through any type of cancer therapy. Ask for a referral, although many facilities and insurances permit a patient to self-refer.

(2) If no RD is on staff at your cancer treatment facility, ask how you may access nutrition services and the expertise of an RD. Also ask why no RD is on staff to provide nutrition services as a component of comprehensive cancer care. Consider advocating for the addition of this service at your cancer treatment facility.

(3) Call the office of your Primary Care Physician to ask for a referral to a Registered Dietitian associated with that office, medical center, or private practice in your locality.

(4) Call your local hospital asking to speak to the Director of Clinical Nutrition Services (may be called the chief clinical dietitian). Explain what you are looking for, and ask if you can make an appointment with an RD on staff (preferably an RD having experience with oncology patients).

(5) Look in the Yellow Pages of your local telephone book under either Dietitian or Nutritionist. Look for RD after the name of the practitioner. Ask about their experience with cancer patients. Also ask if she/he is a member of the American Dietetic Association’s Oncology Nutrition Dietetic Practice Group. Ask if he or she has become certified by ADA as a Certified Specialist, Oncology - CSO© (new as of March 2008).

(6) Go to the web site for the American Dietetic Association (www.eatright.org). Click on “Find a Nutrition Professional” on the home page. Type in your zip code in the designated space to find a list of RD’s in your location with oncology nutrition as a specialty area of practice. Ask if she/he is a member of ADA’s Oncology Nutrition Dietetic Practice Group. You may also call ADA at 1-800-366-1655.

(7) The public may call the American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR) to ask general questions about nutrition and cancer (1-800-843-8114). A Registered Dietitian (RD) will call you back. Questions may also be submitted by Email to an RD from AICR’s web site, www.aicr.org.

(8) Two web sites developed by RD’s have responses to many commonly asked general questions regarding nutrition and cancer:

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