The design and implementation of the MQii are based on several guiding principles. The guiding principles provide a snapshot of the overall intention of the MQii, and should be used as a reference as sites employ different approaches to support the uptake of the clinical workflow and other components of the toolkit.

- Founded on evidence demonstrating that nutrition intervention can improve patient clinical outcomes and lower cost of care for malnourished and at-risk hospitalized adults, including decreasing morbidity and mortality, hospital-acquired conditions and complications, enhancing care transitions, and reducing patient length of stay and unplanned readmissions.
- Aims to address the gap in optimal malnutrition care delivery for hospitalized older adults (ages 65+) based upon evidence across the entire spectrum of malnutrition care delivery, including screening, assessment, diagnosis, nutrition intervention, and discharge planning.
- Seeks to advance early screening, assessment, diagnosis and prompt nutrition intervention for malnourished and at risk hospitalized older adults.
- Seeks to promote a patient-driven nutrition intervention that incorporates patients' clinical presentations, preferences and risk factors.
- Defines nutritional interventions as standard or specialized diets, oral nutrition supplements, tube feeding, parenteral nutrition, and patient education or counseling.
- Aims to promote safety and improve patient outcomes with malnutrition care coordination across all members of the care team, including patients, families, dietitians, physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals.

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