

**ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE TASK FORCE  
RECOMMENDATION FORM**

*Please include only one recommendation on each form.*

**This form must be returned via e-mail to [katie.mulford@iowa.gov](mailto:katie.mulford@iowa.gov) no later than 5:00 p.m.,  
Tuesday Nov. 27, 2007**

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**Each recommendation must fit into one of the following categories. Please check the appropriate box:**

**Education and training**

**Services and housing**

**Funding and reimbursement**

**Wellness and disease management**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Reimbursement should be obtained for nutrition assessment and nutrition counseling by Registered/Licensed Dietitians for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers.

**IN 250 WORDS OR LESS, PLEASE INCLUDE COMMENTS, JUSTIFICATION, RESOURCES OR OTHER INFORMATION TO HELP THE TASK FORCE UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR RECOMMENDATION.**

Alzheimer's disease impacts the ability of an individual to eat and ultimately their health. As the disease progresses there are changes in appetite, ability to eat independently, ability to chew and swallow safely and consequently nutritional health is adversely affected. These changes lead to unintentional weight loss which has been linked to premature loss of function, declining health and higher rates of mortality. Persons responsible for providing care, whether in the home or in care facilities, need to know more about nutrition and meal time strategies to maximize nutritional intake and the health of individuals with Alzheimer's disease.

Nutritional care needs to begin with physicians and nurse practitioners providing screening, identifying stages of Alzheimer's disease with associated changes affecting nutrition and making referral to a registered/licensed dietitian (RD) for nutritional counseling. The RD then conducts a nutritional assessment and develops individualized recommendations for caregivers. Trained caregivers can implement the recommended strategies for the best possible outcomes.

See also DEA website under "K Niedert" and "Dementia Presentation-K. Niedert."