

FACT SHEET ON WEIGHT LOSS IN DEMENTIA PATIENTS

- 1. The first step in a weight loss evaluation is to recheck the patient's weight.**
- 2. Early-stage dementia patients lose weight from medical problems or depression.**
- 3. Mid-stage patients lose weight from medical, psychiatric, cognitive, and behavioral problems.**
- 4. End-stage patients may forget how to chew and swallow.**
- 5. Patients need monthly weights.**
- 6. A dietician should evaluate any dementia patient who loses weight.**
- 7. Oral problems like malfitting dentures or infected teeth will cause weight loss.**
- 8. Most dementia patients fail to finish their meals.**
- 9. Provide dementia patients food that they like and consume.**
- 10. PEG tubes rarely benefit patients with dementia.**

For additional information or inquiries, call the Dementia Education & Training Program at 1-800-457-5679