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## **HACCC's Donna Walsh receives certification as oncology nutrition specialist**



Donna Walsh, MS, RD, CSO, a registered dietitian at the Harold Alfond Center for Cancer Care (HACCC) in Augusta, was recently awarded certification as a specialist in oncology nutrition from the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR).

CDR is the credentialing agency for the American Dietetic Association (ADA), the world's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals. Board-certified specialists in oncology nutrition are registered dietitians who work with individuals at risk for, or diagnosed with, any type of cancer or precancerous condition.

As the HACCC's nutrition therapy and wellness coordinator, Walsh helps patients get the nutrition they need while they are undergoing treatment. She also conducts classes on healthy cooking, cancer prevention, wellness for cancer survivors and other topics throughout the central Maine community.

"I need to be knowledgeable and up-to-date about cancer and its treatment including conventional and complementary therapies, as well as the management of symptoms and side effects that can affect a patient's nutritional status and quality of life," Walsh said. "This certification ensures I receive appropriate continuing education to stay abreast of changes in the field.

"It also reassures patients that they will receive nutrition care from a knowledgeable and competent provider," she added.

To achieve certification, registered dietitians must meet rigorous specialty practice requirements and pass a nationally administered examination.

To learn more about upcoming classes that Walsh will be offering at the cancer center, please call 626-4857 or contact her by e-mail at [donna.walsh@mainegeneral.org](mailto:donna.walsh@mainegeneral.org)

