Nutrition screening is the process of assessing the characteristics and risk factors that will predispose a patient to deficiencies (McMahon & Brown, 2000). To accomplish the screening, a complete nutritional assessment is needed. The recommendation is to start the assessment within 48 hours of admission or diagnosis of cancer and with initiation of therapy, change in therapy, or a weight change of 2%–5% (McMahon & Brown, 2000; Shils, 1979). The information obtained in the screening process should include the following: weight changes, food consumption, functional status, symptoms related to the cancer, and physical examination. Biochemical indicators, such as serum albumin, also are evaluated (McMahon & Brown, 2000).

Many tools can be used to evaluate nutritional status. The scored Patient-Generated Subjective Global Assessment (PG-SGA)