

REGISTERED DIETITIAN

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, to complete nutritional assessments, develop nutritional care plans, complete the MDS, follow the RAPS protocol, and participate in interdisciplinary staffings. Will also determine if the care plan is evaluated in a timely fashion based on the response, outcome, and needs of the residents. Performs other duties as required.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

Assess nutritional status of resident pursuant to initial, quarterly, annual or change of condition MDS; identify risk factors which may lead to avoidable dehydration or weight loss problems; review the interdisciplinary care plan for adequacy of response, outcome and needs of the resident in reference to their therapeutic diet; recommend appropriate action to improve the nutritional status of each resident; review weekly resident weight data from the six clinical units; review nutritional care policies and protocols on an annual basis and make recommendations for change; and conduct nutritional educational classes for resident groups to enhance their understanding of normal, healthy nutritional patterns.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

Education and Experience: Bachelor's degree in dietetics from an accredited college or university and a minimum of three years experience in a nursing home. Also, possess current Registered Dietitian registration with the American Dietetic Association.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities: Knowledge of the principles of human nutrition and clinical dietetics; thorough knowledge of state and federal regulatory statutes governing long-term care facilities; possession of effective oral and written communication skills; ability to be flexible and function independently; ability to work effectively with all residents and staff; ability to maintain confidentiality regarding content of residents' medical charts; ability to interview residents and assess medical charts to complete all departmentally required nutrition assessments and care plans; ability to exercise independent judgment in applying procedures and precedents to unusual situations; ability to effectively communicate with the patient care team to provide quality nutritional care to the residents.