

Medical Nutrition Therapy Recommendations

Policy:

Medical nutrition therapy (MNT) recommendations from the registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN) or designee will be implemented, or the reason for non-implementation will be documented.

Procedure:

1. Any of the RDN's or designee's recommendations related to food and beverage preferences will be given to the director of food and nutrition services, who will follow through and implement them in the facility. (Informing staff, making necessary changes on the meal identification (ID) card/ticket, etc.). The director of food and nutrition services will follow through on these recommendations in a timely manner.
2. Any recommendations that need nursing's attention or a physician's order will be forwarded in writing to the nursing staff (see Sample Nutrition Recommendations Form on the following page) When nursing addresses the recommendations, comments regarding follow through will be added to the form and orders written in the medical record as appropriate. Completed forms will be returned to the RDN or designee for documentation of actions taken, new orders and follow through. Referrals will be made back to the RDN or designee as needed.
3. Routine recommendations will be implemented in a timely manner. Recommendations that are urgent will be handled and physician's orders written in 72 hours or less.
4. The RDN or designee will follow up on routine recommendation in a timely manner (within one to two weeks for nursing facilities). Urgent recommendation may require more timely follow up. Urgent recommendations or concerns may be handled via phone, secure fax or secure email.
5. If the physician is not in agreement with recommendation from the RDN or designee, documentation will be written in the physician's progress notes, nurse's notes, and/or nutrition progress notes.
6. If the physician has delegated order-writing privileges to the RDN, the RDN will write the diet order, alert nursing staff, and leave the order in the appropriate place for the MD to sign in a timely manner as per facility protocols.

Note: Support staff work under the supervision of the registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN). Support staff include nutrition and dietetic technicians, registered (NDTR), nutrition associates (four year degree in nutrition/dietetics), certified dietary managers (CDM), directors of food and nutrition services, etc. The RDN may delegate certain tasks based on the scope of practice and competency levels of each member of the nutrition team.

*The following information is from Karen Morrison, MBA, RD, LD, Ohio Board of Dietetics
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In rule 4759-6-02 (c) (3)

[\(C\)](#) Quality in practice.

[\(1\)](#) The licensee shall systematically evaluate the quality of service and improve practice based on evaluation results.

[\(2\)](#) Quality practice requires regular performance evaluation and continuous improvement.

[\(3\)](#) The licensee shall adhere to acceptable standards for that licensee's area of practice and be designated to deliver services as approved by their facility. The authority and privilege to practice within the scope shall be consistent with the standards of practice of the "Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics" and other regulatory agencies such as, but not limited to, the "Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services" (CMS) guidelines as published in the Federal Register.

[\(4\)](#) The licensee shall generate, interpret and effectively apply evidence based interventions substantiated by research.