



DIETETICS GUIDELINE D – UNLICENSED ASSISTIVE PERSONNEL

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines for task delegation and use of titles for unlicensed, not exempt personnel.

For the safety and welfare of the public, tasks which require the skill, knowledge and judgment of a licensed or exempted person should not be delegated to others. Assistive personnel in institutions, home health care, fitness facilities and other settings **who are not licensed, or appropriately exempted may not practice dietetics** as defined in Chapter 4759 of the Ohio Revised Code. (Note that students may practice only if pursuing degrees to become a dietitian or dietetic technician, when they are appropriately supervised, and when not engaged in practice beyond that which is a part of the academic or pre-professional program.)

The following tasks are considered the practice of dietetics and must be done by individuals either licensed or properly exempted from licensure:

- Perform Nutritional Assessments
- Perform Nutritional Counseling
- Perform Nutritional Education
- Develop Nutritional Care Standards
- Evaluate Nutritional Care Standards
- Recommend Medical Nutrition Regime
- Modify Medical Nutrition Regime
- Provide Nutrition Care Plans
- Provide Professional Nutrition Training of Other Staff
- Provide Nutritional Consultation on Any Matter Regarding Care of Persons Served
- Act in Any Matter Related to Direct Nutrition Care Which Requires Judgement or Decision-making

The following tasks may not specifically be the practice of dietetics, and may be delegated to properly trained individuals:

Collection of Nutritional Data

- Obtaining Nutrition Related Information Including:
 - Biochemical Values
 - Anthropometric Measurements
 - Intake and Output
 - Nutrient Intake and Preferences
 - Socio-economic Factors
- Recording Nutritional Information
- Inputting Nutritional Information into Computer Information System

Implementation of Nutrition Care Plans

- Encouraging, Supporting and Motivating for General Behavior Change (Without the Practice of Dietetics)
- Dissemination of Written Nutrition Information Prepared by a Licensee
- Reporting Response to Nutritional Care Plan

Monitoring Nutritional Progress

- Checking and Recording Nutritional Intake Without Interpretation
- Recording Anthropometric Measurements
- Reporting Response to Care Plan
- Referring for Nutritional Counseling
- Recording New Nutritional Data
- Providing general Non-Medical Nutrition Information

TITLES:

To prevent the appearance of engaging in the practice of dietetics, the person should avoid using any title, designation, words, letters, abbreviation, or insignia or combination of any title, designation, words, letters, abbreviation, or insignia tending to indicate that he/she is practicing dietetics. Suggested titles for unlicensed, not exempt, assistive personnel are as follows:

Nutrition or Dietary Aide; Nutrition, Menu, or Dietary Clerk; Nutrition or Dietary Host or Hostess; Nutrition or Dietary Service Worker; Dietary Manager; Food Service Manager, Supervisor, or Assistant; Fitness or Lifestyle Coach, Facilitator, or Group Leader.

This document is only a guideline and should not be interpreted as all-inclusive or exclusive. Violations reported to the board will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

See also: Laws and rules governing the practice of dietetics in Ohio in Chapter 4759 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Administrative.