

Nutrition Assistant

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: Positions in this banded class support and extend the services provided by the clinical dietician in the provision of the nutritional care of patients. Work requires knowledge of the accepted principles and practices of nutrition and/or dietetics. Employees in this class ensure the accurate transmission of diet orders from nursing service to tray line; ensure accurate recording of and processing of new diet orders, diet changes, and between meal nourishments; provide assistance in the selection and provision of food and food substitutes for patients in healthy and diseased conditions; and assist with menu writing; provide nutritional consultation under direct supervision; and collect and assimilate a variety of patient information for use by higher level professionals in the development of nutritional assessments and care plans.

EXAMPLES OF COMPETENCIES:
CONTRIBUTING:

- **Knowledge-Program:** Demonstrates a basic knowledge of nutrition, food preparation, and food service. Follows an established routine set forth by a higher level professional, such as, a physician, clinical dietician, or nurse.
- **Information/Records Administration and Data Analysis:** Distributes, collects, and tallies menu selections to ensure the accurate transmission of diet orders from nursing service to patient tray line. Maintains accurate and timely records of patient diets.
- **Communication:** Communicates effectively with patients & personnel regarding menu selection, diet orders, and basic nutrition inquiries.

JOURNEY

- **Knowledge-Program:** Demonstrates a general knowledge of accepted principles and practices of nutrition and dietetics, to include diet therapy, feeding techniques, & food service operations. Follows prescribed orders from other health care professionals or established protocols with little variation.
- **Information/Records Administration and Data Analysis:** Collects/assimilates a variety of information to be used by a higher level nutritionist/dietician in preparing nutritional assessments. May require basic preliminary data analysis. Maintains accurate and timely records of patient charts to include dietary/health observation.
- **Communication:** Communicates effectively with patients and personnel in order to obtain relevant information for the development of nutritional assessments, nutritional care plans, and dietary instructions for patients. Interprets the purpose of research to participants and explains data collection procedures that will need to be followed.

ADVANCED

- **Knowledge-Program:** Demonstrates a thorough knowledge of accepted principles and practices of nutrition and dietetics to include practical application. Follows prescribed orders from other health care professionals or established with moderate variation.
- **Information/Records Administration and Data Analysis:** Collects routine and non-routine information to be used in assessment, analysis, and preparing nutritional/health care assessments or data analysis for more complicated situations.
- Maintains accurate and timely records of patient charts to include dietary/health/behavioral observations.
- **Communication:** Communicates effectively with patients, family members and other health care professionals to carry out nutritional/health care plans. May provide direction for others. Provides basic patient instruction. Interprets purpose of research project to patients, family members and other health care professionals.

MINIMUM TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Completion of high school plus one year of experience involving general food service with special emphasis on health care dietetics, or closely related health care experience, or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Special Note: This is a generalized representation of positions in this class and is not intended to reflect essential functions per ADA. Examples of competencies are typical of the majority of positions, but may not be applicable to all positions.