

CLINICAL DIETITIAN II

Work in this class involves highly specialized nutritional care for patients with acute problems or chronic diseases that require long-term specialized dietary management to survive a medical crisis or to maintain a stable condition (i.e. burn center, intensive care units, renal dialysis units). Employees perform nutrition assessments, plan and implement care programs in consultation with the physicians. Work may include participation in a nutrition course for medical students and supervision of graduate students in dietetics doing pre-professional training. Employees report to a higher level Clinical Dietitian.

I. DIFFICULTY OF WORK:

Variety and Scope - Work assignments include direct individualized patient care as described in Clinical Dietitian I. Employees are responsible for adjusting the nutritional care plan to coincide with the patient's condition. Employees are involved in the training and evaluation of supportive personnel, in the training of physicians, and in the clinical experiences of graduate students in dietetics.

Intricacy - In addition to developing and implementing individualized treatment programs, employees monitor and interpret subjective data, anthropometric measurements, and laboratory values to evaluate patient's compliance and response to the prescribed program. Employees record their findings in the medical record and make modifications in the nutrition care plan as needed.

Subject Matter Complexity - Work requires an in-depth knowledge of biochemistry, physiology, diet therapy principles, feeding techniques, food service operations, and appropriate application to the area of specialty.

Guidelines - Guidelines include professional publications and textbooks; government food composition tables; departmental and divisional policies and procedural manuals; Nutrition Care Committee minutes; and many others. Guidelines for treatment are also provided through doctors' referrals, rounds, and interdisciplinary team conferences.

II. RESPONSIBILITY

Nature of Instructions - Employees are expected to function independently with regard to nutritional assessments, care plan development and monitoring. Implementation of care plans is begun after consultation with the physician and/or the development of team treatment plan. General instructions and assignments are received from a higher level Clinical Dietitian.

Nature of Review - Work is reviewed and evaluated by a higher level Clinical Dietitian, the Associate Food Service Director, the Food Service Director and other professionals through periodic observation of work, analysis of reports, periodic conferences, and patients' progress.

Scope of Decisions - Employees' decisions affect the assigned patient population served, the medical treatment team, support staff, patients' families, and members of the dietary staff.

Consequence of Decisions - Decisions regarding selection of diet, special dietary supplements, feeding techniques, amounts of nutrients delivered, and period of time in which nutrients are delivered affect the progress a patient makes toward stabilization and recuperation. Fatal errors are possible and carefully avoided.

III. INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Scope of Contacts - Work requires contact with patients, patients' families, students, dietary employees, a variety of professional disciplines including nurses, physicians and hospital administrators, university faculty, and sales representatives from private industry.

Nature and Purpose - The nature and purpose of the work is to nutritionally assess and recommend life sustaining nutritional care during an acute crisis or chronic condition; to monitor and direct progressive nutritional care during recovery and recuperation; and to instruct the patient and the patient's family in a medically prescribed dietary plan for long-term use. The plan is designed to augment the rest of the medical treatment in an effort to maintain the patient in the most optimum condition possible.

IV. OTHER WORK DEMANDS:

Work Conditions - Working conditions in a hospital or medical complex may be mildly disagreeable according to the types and condition of the patients served.

Hazards - Employees work with patients and their families, but they could rarely be considered potentially dangerous or hazardous except in DHR institutions, where employee has daily contact with potentially dangerous and combative patients.

V. RECRUITMENT STANDARDS:

Knowledges, Skills, and Abilities - Extensive knowledge of dietary management of disease in specialty area. Extensive knowledge of accepted principles and practices of nutrition and dietetics. Considerable skills in teaching, diet counseling and communicating. Ability to develop and use effective audio-visual aids. Ability to establish and maintain good working relationships.

Minimum Education and Experience - Bachelor's degree in foods and nutrition, dietetics, or related area from an appropriately accredited institution and completion of an ADA approved coordinated undergraduate program or Dietetic Internship with the ADA Commission on Dietetic Registration eligibility preferred and two years of experience in dietary in a clinical setting; or master's degree in nutrition, food service, or dietetics from an appropriately accredited institution with the ADA Commission on Dietetic Registration eligibility preferred, plus one year of dietary clinical experience; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Administering the Class - Candidates should provide documentation from their respective university or college certifying Commission eligibility and/or indicating completion of an ADA dietetic internship. If commission registered, candidates may provide registration number.