



OHIO BOARD OF DIETETICS

77 SOUTH HIGH STREET, 18TH FLOOR
COLUMBUS, OH 43215-6119 - (614) 466-3291

www.dietetics.ohio.gov

GUIDELINE I

ASSESSING COMPETENCY

THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS TO PROVIDE GUIDELINES FOR ASSESSING COMPETENCY FOR THE EXEMPT PRACTITIONER.

Rule 4759-5-01 of the Ohio Administrative Code outlines the supervision of persons claiming exemption.

The licensed dietitian is responsible and accountable for the nutrition care of patients/clients in all healthcare settings, and must answer to patients, employers, licensure boards and the legal system if care is compromised.

The licensee shall not delegate the nutrition care process, but may assign tasks within the process to a competent exempt practitioner for the purpose of providing the licensee with needed information and communicating with and educating patients/clients.

The supervising dietitian can establish initial and on-going competency by individual means including but not limited to testing, evaluations, use of decision tree models and peer competency assessment tools. Engaging in on-going dietetics related continuing education is vital to competent practice.

Examples of Core Competencies for Dietetic Technicians:

- Refer clients/patients to other dietetics professionals or disciplines when a situation is beyond one's level of competence
- Perform self-assessment, prepare a portfolio for professional development and participate in lifelong learning activities
- Document nutrition screenings, assessments and interventions
- Provide dietetics education in supervised practice settings
- Educate patients/clients in disease prevention and health promotion and medical nutrition therapy for uncomplicated instances of common conditions, e.g., hypertension, obesity, diabetes and diverticular disease
- Design menus as indicated by the patient/client's health status
- Perform nutrition screening of individual patients/clients
- Assess nutritional status of individual patient/clients with health conditions identified by health promotion/disease prevention activities or with uncomplicated instances of chronic diseases of the general population
- Assist with nutrition assessment of individual patients/clients with complex medical conditions, e.g., renal disease, multi-system diseases, organ failure and trauma
- Participate in the selection, monitoring and evaluation of standard enteral nutrition regimens, i.e., in a medically stable patient to meet nutritional needs where recommendations/adjustments involve primarily macronutrients
- Conduct screening of the nutritional status of the population and/or community groups
- Assist with assessment of the nutritional status of the population and/or community group

Questions to consider when determining competency of exempt practitioner

- If the service or act is not included in your basic DTR education program, have you since completed a comprehensive training program which demonstrates clinical competency?
- If yes, has this training been documented in your records and supervisor's file?
- Is the task permitted by relevant policies and procedures?
- Is the task authorized by federal statutes or regulations (Medicare MNT, etc.)?
- Is the task not explicitly restricted by your state licensure law or other laws and regulations?
- Does information exist related to the Standards of Practice from a local, community or national perspective for this task?
- Does carrying out the task pass the "reasonable and prudent" test for dietetics practice?
- Is your competency for performing this task documented?

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

FOR MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION, SEE:

**LAWS AND RULES GOVERNING THE
PRACTICE OF DIETETICS IN THE STATE
OF OHIO
GUIDELINE A
GUIDELINE G
GUIDELINE H**