



OHIO BOARD OF DIETETICS

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GUIDELINE G

DIETETIC TECHNICIAN

THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS TO PROVIDE GUIDELINES FOR NUTRITION CARE RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH MAY BE APPROPRIATELY DELEGATED TO THE DIETETIC TECHNICIAN WORKING UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED DIETITIAN AND WHO MEETS EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 4759.10 (B) OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE.

Section 4759.10 (B) of the Ohio Revised Code allows a dietetic technician who is a graduate of an approved associate degree program in dietetic technology... to be exempted from licensure if practicing under the supervision of a licensed dietitian or registered dietitian and not holding oneself out as a dietitian.

Though written specifically for Section 4759.10 (B) of the Ohio Revised Code, this document may also be an applicable guideline for persons meeting Exemption pursuant to Section 4759.10 (E) of the Ohio Revised Code, Baccalaureate graduate of a dietetics program approved by the ADA who works under the supervision of a licensed dietitian....

"The practice of dietetics" means any of the following, as specified in Section 4759.01 (A) of the Ohio Revised Code:

- 1) Nutritional assessment to determine nutritional needs and to recommend appropriate nutritional intake, including enteral and parenteral nutrition;
- 2) Nutritional counseling or education as components of preventive, curative, and restorative health care;
- 3) Development, administration, evaluation, and consultation regarding nutritional care standards.

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 to the competent DT/DTR/NA within the process for the purpose of providing the licensee with needed information and communicating with and educating patients/clients.

The Board suggests that the supervising licensed dietitian review OBD Guideline A, Supervision and the Laws and Rules Governing the Practice of Dietetics in the State of Ohio referring to supervision (Rules 4759-5-01, "Supervision of Persons Claiming Exemption" and 4759-6-01 Standards of Practice in Nutrition Care and 4759-6-02 Standards of Professional Performance).

The supervising dietitian should verify the competence of each individual exempt practitioner prior to assigning tasks within the nutrition care process.

It is reasonable to believe that an entry level dietetic technician would be knowledgeable in the following areas:

Nutritional assessment to determine nutritional needs and to recommend appropriate nutritional intake, including enteral and parenteral nutrition;

- Refer patients/clients to other dietetics professionals or disciplines when a situation exceeds ones level of competence
- Perform nutrition screening of individual patients/clients
- Collect data for inclusion into the nutrition assessment
- Compare data collected to established criteria to identify differences
- Assess nutrition status of individual patients/clients with low risk medical conditions
- Document nutrition screening, assessments and interventions
- Implement designated nutrition interventions
- Collect monitoring data
- Assist with nutrition assessment of individual patients/clients with complex medical conditions
- Assist with design and implementation of nutrition care as indicated by the patients/clients health status
- Participate in the selection, monitoring, and evaluation of standard enteral nutrition regimes
- Develop and/or modify recipes/formulas
- Conduct screening of nutrition status of the population and/or community groups

Nutritional counseling or education as components of preventive, curative, and restorative health care;

- Provide nutrition and lifestyle education to well populations
- Educate patient/clients in disease prevention, and health promotion
- Conduct education for target groups
- Refer patients/clients to appropriate community services for general health, nutrition needs and to other primary care providers as appropriate
- Participate in community based or worksite health promotion/disease prevention programs
- Participate in interdisciplinary team conferences to discuss patient/client treatment and discharge plan

Development, administration, evaluation, and consultation regarding nutritional care standards

- Participate in performance and quality improvement, customer satisfaction and outcomes development for clinical and customer service
- Participate in organizational change, planning, and goal setting processes
- Participate in the management of normal nutrition needs of individuals across the lifespan
- Supervise translation of nutrition into foods/menus for target populations
- Design menus as indicated by the patients/clients health status
- Participate in development and measurement of outcomes for food and nutrition services and practice
- Participate in development of community based food and nutrition program
- Participate in community based food and nutrition program outcome assessment/evaluation
- Participate in nutrition care for population groups across the lifespan

Also, see The American Dietetic Association Foundation Knowledge and Skills and Competency Requirements for Entry-Level Dietetic Technicians 2008. The American Dietetic Association, 216 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60606-6995.

Those exempt practitioners who are competent to practice beyond minimum standards should be expected to demonstrate initial and on-going competence annually with documentation of successful audits.

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:

**GUIDELINE A--SUPERVISION and GUIDELINE B--TITLES
LAWS AND RULES GOVERNING THE PRACTICE OF DIETETICS IN THE STATE OF OHIO**