

**DUTY STATEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF STATE HOSPITALS – COALINGA**

CLASSIFICATION: REGISTERED DIETITIAN (SAFETY)	
Approved by Director of Dietetics – Sarah Laird Signature: <i>Sarah Laird</i>	Date Approved: <i>12/8/21</i>

- 1. MAJOR TASKS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** Under direction, the Registered Dietitian provides medical nutrition therapy to forensic clients or patients in a State facility; participates as a member of the interdisciplinary team; and performs other related work.

 - 45%** Completes an admission and annual nutritional assessment, including but not limited to, care planning for each assigned patient. Consults with members of the treatment/interdisciplinary team. Initiates a more intensive nutrition therapy plan for patients identified at a higher nutritional risk. Completes reviews/referrals for assigned patients; includes acute infirmary admissions, referrals, weight changes, diet changes, and those scheduled for review. Participates in multi-disciplinary disease or medication management clinics as assigned. Provides routine visitation at least weekly to assigned units; and assists in identifying potential referrals.
 - 30%** Observes meal service and consumption of assigned units at least monthly and more frequently as needed to assess and monitor nutritional status. Includes on-unit observation for patients fed long-term on units and short-term cases as needed. Maintain current patient profile information on assigned patients. Includes weights, food preferences, and allergies/intolerances. Implements and nutrition therapy plan in collaboration with the treatment/interdisciplinary team. Nutrition therapy plans include diet modifications, individual modified diets, drug/food, and education; monitoring patient progress; and further recommendations for evaluation and treatment. Communicates to Nutrition Services staff and monitors the individualized patient meal/nourishment plans.
 - 20%** Provides consultation to unit staff and patients as problems or questions arise regarding diet therapy and nutrition; providing input for the treatment/interdisciplinary team regarding the patient's nutritional status, progress, and level of functioning in nutrition related skills; attending the Treatment Planning Conference per request or priority; reviewing nursing care plans, and team conference reports for nutritional relevancy and providing feedback to unit management when needed. Develops lesson plans and delivers group education opportunities for patients. Implements facility goals and objectives including Continuous Quality Improvement/Performance Improvement (PI) activities and

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Biopsychosocial Rehabilitation; maintains active membership as directed on department and/or hospital committees or process management/action teams. Evaluates activities pertaining to work assignment and makes recommendations for work improvement. This is to include, as assigned managing an area of clinical responsibility (e.g., diet menu analysis, new products, clinical forms, etc.), participating in clinical project planning and implementation (e.g., Nutrition Care Manual Updates).

5% As directed, assists in the orientation of new clinical staff; provides training Nutrition Services and other hospital staff (e.g., Food Sanitation and Safety, Nutrition Care Manual updates); acts as preceptor for Dietetic Intern(s) if needed. Liaisons with assigned programs and departments in providing and receiving information relevant to Nutrition Services and resolving PI issues.

2. SUPERVISION RECEIVED:

Assistant Director of Dietetics

3. SUPERVISION EXERCISED:

None

4. KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES:

KNOWLEDGE OF: Principles, practices, and theories of nutrition and dietetics including medical nutrition therapy; methods of planning, preparing, and serving food to many persons; and the special dietary requirements of developmentally or mentally disordered forensic clients or patients, pediatric and geriatric populations, and other client or patient groups.

ABILITY TO: Apply the principles and practices of nutrition and dietetics, including medical nutrition therapy; assess nutrition status and develop nutrition care plans; communicate nutrition concerns and recommendations with the interdisciplinary team; provide effective nutrition education and training; and analyze situations accurately and adopt an effective course of action.

5. REQUIRED COMPETENCIES:

ANNUAL HEALTH REVIEW: All employees are required to have an annual health review and TB test or whenever necessary to ascertain that they are free from symptoms indicating the presence of infection and are able to safely perform their essential job functions.

INFECTION CONTROL: Applies knowledge of correct methods of controlling the spread of pathogens appropriate to job class and assignment.

HEALTH AND SAFETY: Activity supports a safe and hazard free workplace through practice of personal safety and vigilance in the identification of safe or security hazards.

CPR: Maintain current certification if applicable.

THERAPEUTIC STRATEGY INTERVENTION (TSI): Supports safe working environment; practices the strategies and interventions that promote a therapeutic milieu; applies and demonstrates knowledge of correct methods in the management of assaultive behavior.

CULTURAL AWARENESS: Demonstrates awareness to multicultural issues in the workplace that enable the employee to work more effectively.

RELATIONSHIP SECURITY: Demonstrates professional interactions with patients and maintains therapeutic boundaries. Maintains relationship security in the work area; takes effective action and monitors, per policy, any suspected employee/patient boundary violations.

PRIVACY AND SECURITY OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION: Maintains and safeguards the privacy and security of patients' protected Health Information and other individually identifiable health information; whether paper, electronic, or verbal form in compliance with HIPAA and all other applicable privacy laws.

SITE SPECIFIC COMPETENCIES:

- Assess nutritional status for the adult or geriatric male.
- Provide for and monitor age-related nutritional needs.
- Applies and demonstrates knowledge of correct methods in providing nutrition education to patients.
- Effectively interfaces with, and provides consultation to, the interdisciplinary treatment team in developing and implementing nutrition therapy plans.

TECHNICAL PROFICIENCY (SITE SPECIFIC):

- Applies knowledge of medical nutrition therapy in psychiatric setting.
- Applies and demonstrates knowledge in providing drug-nutrient counseling on psychiatric medications.

6. **LICENSE OR CERTIFICATION:** It is the employee's responsibility to maintain a license, credential, or required registration pertinent to their classification on a current basis. Any failure to do so may result in termination from Civil Services.

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7. TRAINING:

Training Category – 1 – Training Procedure No. 03-11.

The employee is required to keep current with the completion of all required training.

8. WORKING CONDITIONS:

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE AD-146:

Each employee shall be fully acquainted with the rules and regulations of the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) and of the hospital.

EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO:

1. Report to work on time and following procedures for reporting absences.
2. Maintain professional appearance.
3. Appropriately maintain cooperative, professional, and effective interactions with employees, patient/client and the public.
4. The work entails routinely encountering clients and interacting with staff throughout the facility, thus sensitivity and tolerant even temperament is required.
5. The employee is required to work any shift and schedule in a variety of settings throughout the hospital and may be required to work overtime and float to other work locations as determined by the operational needs of the hospital.

Employee Signature

Print Name

Date

Supervisor Signature

Print Name

Date