

RECOMMENDED STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR CONSULTANT DIETITIANS

19.1104. Nursing Facility Requirements for Licensure and Certification

- (a) The facility must ensure a qualified dietitian is available as frequently and for such time as is necessary to assure each resident a diet that meets the daily nutritional and special dietary needs of each resident, based upon the acuity and clinical needs of the resident. The facility must ensure that dietary consultant hours are provided, at a minimum, once a month as follows:
 - (1) facility population: 60 residents or under - eight hours;
 - (2) facility population: each additional 30 residents or fraction thereof - four hours
- (b) To meet the consultant-hour requirement, time is accrued and counted exactly as rendered.
- (c) The qualified dietitian must be a part of the interdisciplinary team conducting the assessment and care planning where indicated by the individual resident's needs.
- (d) The facility must outline consultant services in a signed contract. This requirement does not apply to facilities which employ a qualified dietitian on their staff.

Best Practice for Consultant Dietitians

In addition to the above state requirements, review your contract and consider outlining in more detail the services of the dietary consultant. Below are recommendations to consider, in assisting a facility in the management of nutrition and eating.

- Requiring consultant to carry a pager for availability 24 hours 7 day a week call, to answer questions, to communicate problems/concerns.
- Set a frequency for the visits, such as every week for at least two hours. This would meet the minimum eight hour requirement if you have a population of 60 or under.
- Consider putting in the contract the dietitian perform quarterly reviews.
- Have the dietitian attend at least monthly one or more of your facility weight, skin and quality committees.
- Require the dietitian to inservice and educate the activity director and dietary manager on adding snacks and fluids during activities.
- Provide inservices to staff on calculating food consumption, use of 2 cal with medication pass, use of the environment to stimulate appetites, drug interactions affecting appetites and documentation in the clinical record and resident care plan.
- Review MDS quality indicator resident summary data, including validation of data accuracy.