

## **PRACTICE TIPS: Provide Quality Dietetics Care**

**Take STEPS to assure that quality dietetics care is provided within the organization!**

### **Step 1: Gather information and educate staff RDs. What are the practice regulations? What is the RD scope of practice?**

- Read and understand the Federal regulations pertaining to the practice setting.
- Read and understand State rules and regulations including State licensure, State registration or certification laws, and State practice acts.
- Review organization accreditation standards, if applicable, i.e. The Joint Commission, American Osteopathic Association Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program, or the DNV National Integrated Accreditation for Healthcare Organizations.
- Review facility policies and procedures.
- Review facility RD and DTR job descriptions.

### **Step 2: Become part of the organization's quality and patient safety committees.**

- Provide safe, effective, timely, efficient, equitable, patient/client-centered care<sup>1</sup>.
- Be an active member of the interdisciplinary team.
- Provide care that is consistent with the National Quality Forum's Safe Practices for Better Healthcare 2010 Update ([www.qualityforum.org](http://www.qualityforum.org)).
- Measure performance and report results to the facility's quality officer, patient safety committee, national quality organizations, and performance improvement groups.
- Improve performance by participating in continuous quality improvement initiatives.

### **Step 3: Develop disease-specific and condition-specific protocols or computerized order-entry pathways.**

- Provide consistent, quality care through medical staff-approved protocols and order sets listed within protocols.
- Review facility-wide and nursing protocols for inclusion of nutrition order sets.
- Conduct the nutrition care process and communicate recommendations to the MD/DO.
- Write or modify therapeutic nutrition (diet) orders through MD/DO delegated orders or with a MD/DO written order to the RD to write the nutrition (diet) order.
- MDs/DOs must co-sign orders written by the RD per facility policy/state law designated time frame (i.e. 24 or 48 hours).

### **Step 4: Assess competency and pursue opportunities for professional development and advanced level practice.**

- Verify facility RDs and DTRs are qualified and competent based on education, experience, and specialized training. The RD and DTR must be qualified and competent to do the facility job and tasks assigned.
- Obtain State licensure, certification, or registration, if required by State law.
- Assess competency of skills for specialty and advanced level practice through peer review and proficiency and intuitive expert demonstration.

**Provide safe, effective, timely, efficient, equitable, patient/client-centered care!<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Crossing the Quality Chasm, March 2001

<http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2001/Crossing-the-Quality-Chasm-A-New-Health-System-for-the-21st-Century.aspx>