Subject: “Dietitian to Manage Writing Privileges”

Purpose:
- To implement nutrition care interventions for patients at nutrition risk facilitating improved clinical outcomes.
- To ensure standards for dietitian to manage order writing privileges are established.

Policy: Dietitian to manage order provides a service for our physicians to have a trained professional in nutrition manage their patient’s diet orders, nutrition supplements and nutrition support using the EMR system.

Procedure: The Registered Dietitian may order the following items as the patient’s condition warrants:

1. Oral Diets
   - Upgrade or down-grade food or fluid consistency pending speech therapist evaluation for dysphagia
   - Ability to change diet when food consistency is an issue with chewing/swallowing
   - Modify therapeutic diet restrictions as needed to improve oral intake
     - i.e. NAS/4 gm Na when intake recorders document total sodium <50% of a 2 gm Na diet

2. Enteral Nutrition
   - Order enteral products
   - Set and change tube feeding rate
   - Determine bolus feeds and free water flush requirements
   - Determine hours of feeding (continuous vs cyclic/intermittent)
   - Determine feeding route
   - Check residual, while working with nursing

3. Parenteral Nutrition
   - Provide recommendations on rate for TPN/PPN feedings
   - Provide nutrient content of parenteral nutrition given

4. Nutritional Supplements
   - Order or discontinue:
     - Commercial Nutritional supplements
     - Protein supplements
     - Vitamin/mineral supplements
     - Fiber supplements
5. **Consult**
   - Speech Therapist evaluation to test safety of food consumption

6. **Miscellaneous**
   - Weekly weights
   - Calorie Counts
   - Verbal or telephone orders read back (TORB) pertaining to the dietitian’s scope of practice

7. **Weekends/Nights**
   - Dietitian to manage is to help doctors during regular business hours and evenings. Dietitians are available every weekend, but dietitians will not be available overnight for diet recommendations.
   - When using dietitian to manage, Physicians should start a diet order and if the patient is medically stable and doing well, then dietitian to manage is appropriate for that patient.


American Dietetic Association White Paper 482.28 Conditions of Participation: Food and Dietetic Services Interpretive Guidelines for Therapeutic Diet Orders. 9/12/05.

Patient Food Services Policy & Procedures, Volume IV, Meal Delivery and Clinical Nutrition Management. ARAMARK. 12/15/08.