10.07.02.Dietetic Services.

A. Services Provided. Services may be provided directly by the facility or the facility may contract with a food management company, a caterer, or another facility. The facility and the food management company (or caterer or facility providing service) shall comply with these regulations. Food service personnel shall comply with COMAR 10.15.03 Food Service Facilities.

B. Supervision.

(1) In facilities exceeding 50 beds, overall supervisory responsibilities for the dietetic service shall be assigned to a full-time qualified dietetic service supervisor. It shall be the responsibility of the supervisor to delegate relief duties to a person qualified to serve as relief. (See Supportive Personnel, Regulation .07J, above.)

(2) In facilities with 26–50 beds, exceptions may be made by the Department to allow the supervisor to share cooking responsibilities with the full-time cook.

(3) In facilities with 25 beds or fewer, responsibility may be assigned to the full-time cook.

(4) If a facility can demonstrate that because of the experience and training of its personnel and the physical layout and equipment, less supervisory personnel is required, the Department may modify the above requirements for supervision.

C. Consultation.

(1) If the supervisor is not a dietitian, the individual shall receive regularly scheduled consultation from a registered dietitian or other qualified person. In all instances, sufficient consultation shall be provided to fulfill all required responsibilities.

(2) There shall be a signed agreement between the facility and the consultant dietitian specifying hours and frequency of service responsibilities, and registration number if applicable.

(3) Consultation services shall be documented by written reports.

D. Staffing.

(1) A sufficient number of food service personnel shall be employed to carry out efficiently the functions of the dietetic service and meet the dietary needs of the patient.

(2) Working hours shall be scheduled to insure that the dietetic needs of the patients are met.

(3) Nursing, housekeeping, laundry, or other personnel may not be utilized as dietetic staff.
Exceptions may be made only upon the written approval of the Department. The kitchen may not be used for any purpose other than the preparation of food.