10.07.02.41 Paid Feeding Assistants.

A. A facility may use a paid feeding assistant who has successfully completed a State approved training course as described in §E of this regulation.

B. Supervision.

(1) A paid feeding assistant shall work under the supervision of a licensed nurse.

(2) In an emergency, when the resident is fed in the resident’s room, a paid feeding assistant shall use the resident call system to call a supervisory nurse for help.

C. A facility that uses a paid feeding assistant shall ensure that the paid feeding assistant feeds only residents who do not have complicated feeding conditions including, but not limited to:

(1) Difficulty swallowing;

(2) Choking;

(3) Recurrent lung aspirations; or

(4) Tube or parenteral intravenous feedings.

D. Protocol. The facility shall develop a protocol for selecting residents who are appropriate for feeding by a paid feeding assistant. The facility shall select a resident based on the:

(1) Charge nurse’s current assessment of the resident;

(2) The resident's latest Minimum Data Set (MDS) assessment; and

(3) The resident's plan of care.

E. State-Approved Training. A State-approved training course for paid feeding assistants shall consist of at least 8 hours of training that includes:

(1) Feeding techniques;

(2) Assistance with feeding and hydration;

(3) Communication and interpersonal skills;

(4) Appropriate responses to resident behavior;

(5) Safety and emergency procedures, including the Heimlich maneuver;

(6) Infection control;
(7) Resident rights;

(8) Recognizing changes in a resident's behavior that are inconsistent with the resident's normal behavior and the importance of reporting these changes to a supervisory nurse; and

(9) Successful completion of a two-part test that includes a: (a) Written test with a passing score of 80 percent; and

(b) Demonstration of proper feeding skills performed on a resident under observation.

F. The feeding assistant training may be taught by a:

(1) Registered nurse and supplementary professional instructors;

(2) Licensed dietitian-nutritionist;

(3) Licensed physical therapist;

(4) Licensed speech therapist; or

(5) Licensed occupational therapist.

G. The facility shall maintain a record of all paid feeding assistants who have successfully completed a feeding assistance course.

Regulations .40 and .41 recodified to Regulations .43 and .44, respectively, Appendix recodified as Regulation .40 and amended, and new Regulations .41 and .42 adopted effective October 1, 1990 (17:19 Md. R. 2320)

Regulation .41 repealed and new Regulation .41 adopted effective September 13, 2004 (31:18 Md. R. 1350)