

COLORADO

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Part 5 - Resident Care

5.6 NUTRITIONAL CARE PLANNING.

(b) In the event the facility elects to utilize paid feeding assistants or feeding assistant volunteers pursuant to Part 11.001 of this Chapter V, as part of the history and assessment conducted pursuant to paragraph (a) of this 5.6, the interdisciplinary team shall evaluate each resident regarding the suitability of the resident to be fed and hydrated by a feeding assistant. Such evaluation shall include, but need not be limited to each resident's level of care, functional status concerning feeding and hydration, and, the resident's ability to cooperate and communicate with staff.

Part 11.001 - Feeding Assistants

11.001.1 Definitions.

Unless otherwise indicated, as used in Part 11.001:

(1) (a) "Feeding assistant" means an individual who assists residents by performing feeding assistant tasks, meets the requirements of Section 11.001.2 and 11.001.3; and, is paid as an employee of a facility; used by a facility under arrangement with another agency or organization; or, who is an unpaid volunteer.

(b) The following individuals may provide feeding assistance to residents without meeting the requirements of section 11.001.2 and 11.001.3:

(i) Registered or licensed nurses;

(ii) Certified nurse aides;

(iii) Registered dietitians;

(iv) Licensed health care practitioners with appropriate experience in feeding and hydrating residents;

(v) Private duty aides and students in nursing education programs and other allied health programs who utilize facilities as clinical practice sites; or,

(vi) Resident family members.

(2) "Employing facility" means a facility that employs paid feeding assistants or utilizes the services of volunteer feeding assistants.

(3) "Feeding assistant tasks" include and are limited to the provision of feeding and

hydration services provided in accordance with this Section 11.001. A feeding assistant may not

perform or be assigned to perform any task that constitutes: the practice of professional nursing as defined in §12-38-103 (10), C.R.S.; the practice of practical nursing as defined in §12-38-103 (9), C.R.S.; or the practice of a nurse aide as defined in §12-38.1-102 (5), C.R.S.

(4) "Training program provider" means, an employing facility or other training entity approved by the department pursuant to 11.001.6 to administer a feeding assistant training program.

11.001.2 Authorization; Qualifications

(1) A facility may employ or use an individual as a volunteer feeding assistant if: the individual meets all applicable requirements of this Chapter V; and, the facility first verifies that the individual:

(a) Has successfully completed a feeding assistant training program in accordance with 11.001.5; and,

(b) Is at least sixteen 16 years of age.

(2) (a) An employing facility must screen prospective feeding assistants to ensure individuals have no history that would preclude their interaction with residents.

(b) In addition to applicable facility pre-employment screening procedures, an employing facility shall obtain from each prospective paid and volunteer feeding assistant a copy of the recognition of completion document evidencing successful completion of the feeding assistant training program issued in accordance with 11.001.5 (1)(b)(II). Additionally, an employing facility shall verify the following:

(I) In the case of an individual who has not previously been employed or volunteered as a

feeding assistant and who has received feeding assistant training administered by an entity other than the employing facility, successful completion of the feeding assistant training program with the training entity that provided such training;

(II) In the case of an individual who has been previously employed as a feeding assistant, feeding assistant employment history with the prospective employee's previous long-term care facility employer;

(III) In the case of an individual who has previously volunteered as a feeding assistant, feeding assistant volunteer history with the long-term care facility that previously utilized the services of that individual.

(3) Feeding assistants may not be counted toward meeting or complying with any requirement for nursing care staff and functions of a facility, including minimum nurse staffing requirements.

11.001.3 Supervision; emergencies

(1) A feeding assistant shall work under the supervision of and shall report to a registered or licensed practical nurse. Each feeding assistant shall be given instruction by a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse or registered dietitian concerning the specific feeding and hydration needs of each resident the feeding assistant will be assigned to assist.

(2) (a) Feeding assistants may perform feeding assistant tasks in congregate dining areas. A nurse

shall be immediately available in case of an emergency during meals.

(b) Upon a determination by the charge nurse pursuant to 11.001.4 that it is safe to do so, based on assessments conducted pursuant to 11.001.4(1), a feeding assistant may perform feeding assistant tasks in a resident room for a resident who is unable or unwilling to dine in a congregate dining area.

(3) In an emergency, a feeding assistant must immediately secure the assistance of a supervisory nurse or physician. Feeding assistants shall know how to use resident call systems. This includes use of call light systems and other methods of immediately securing the assistance of supervisory nurses and physicians.

11.001.4 Resident Selection

(1) The facility must base resident selection on the charge nurse's assessment of the resident's present condition and the following provisions of this Chapter V:

(a) Most recent resident assessment performed pursuant to Section 5.2; (b) Nutritional care plan developed pursuant to Section 5.6; and,

(c) Plan of care developed pursuant to Section 5.7.

(2) A feeding assistant may perform feeding assistant tasks for those residents who require assistance or encouragement with feeding and hydration. Consistent with the assessments and care plans specified in (1) of this section 11.001.4, a facility must ensure that a feeding assistant feeds only residents who do not have a complicated feeding problem. Such problems include, but are not limited to, difficulty with swallowing, recurrent lung aspirations, and tube or parenteral/intravenous feedings.

11.001.5 Feeding Assistant Training Program

(1) (a) The feeding assistant training program shall be administered by a training program provider approved in accordance with 11.001.6 and shall consist of not less than twelve (12)

actual clock hours of classroom instruction. Class size shall be limited to twenty (20) enrollees. Classroom instruction shall be conducted in accordance with current standards of practice and shall conform to the "Feeding Assistant Curriculum Specifications and Program Requirements" available from the department. Curriculum subjects shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

(I) Feeding techniques;

(II) Assistance with feeding and hydration;

(III) Communication and interpersonal skills;

(IV) Appropriate responses to resident behavior;

(V) Safety and emergency procedures, including the Heimlich maneuver; (VI) Infection control;

(VII) Resident rights; and,

(VIII) Recognizing changes in residents that are inconsistent with their normal behavior and the

importance of reporting those changes to the supervisory nurse.

(b) (I) Successful completion of the feeding assistant training program requires each individual enrolled to obtain a score of eighty (80) percent or greater in a written examination provided at the conclusion of classroom instruction. Written examination questions shall be of an appropriate level of difficulty to reflect proficiency in each module of the “Feeding Assistant Curriculum Specifications and Program Requirements” and, at the discretion of the training program provider, may include ancillary feeding assistant-related curriculum subjects. Written examination questions shall not be disclosed to candidates in advance and shall be varied in format and content from test-to test.

(II) Within ten (10) calendar days from successful completion of a feeding assistant training program, a training program provider approved in accordance with 11.001.6 shall furnish each individual who successfully completes the program with a uniform recognition of completion document. Said document shall be in the format designated by and available from the department to be used by the individual to whom it is issued for the purpose of establishing successful completion of the training program. The document shall bear the notarized signature of an authorized representative of the training program provider.

(III) An individual who successfully completes a feeding assistant training program is not

required to repeat the program upon employment or upon providing volunteer feeding assistant services at another facility unless the individual has not worked or volunteered in a long term care facility as a feeding assistant for a period of twenty-four (24) consecutive months. In such case, the individual shall not be employed or used as a volunteer feeding assistant by a facility as a paid feeding assistant until the person successfully repeats the feeding assistant training program.

(c) An individual who fails to score eighty (80) percent or greater in the written knowledge test may be retested one time by a training program provider. An individual who fails to pass on the second attempt shall not be retested without the individual first repeating the twelve (12) actual clock hours of classroom instruction specified in subparagraph (1) (a) of this section.

11.001.6 Feeding Assistant Training Program Provider Approval

(1) A feeding assistant training program may be administered by an employing facility or other training entity approved pursuant to this 11.001.6. As used in this 11.001.6, “other training entity” includes: an accredited college, university or vocational school; or, a program, seminar or in-service training sponsored by an organization, association, corporation, group or agency with specific expertise concerning the provision of feeding and hydration services.

(2) Feeding assistant training programs shall use as instructors only individuals who have appropriate experience in feeding and hydrating residents and who hold: a valid Colorado license to practice as a registered or practical nurse; a certificate of registered dietitian through the commission on dietetic registration; a certificate of speech-language pathologist through the American speech-language-hearing association; or, a certificate of registered occupational therapist through the national board for certification in occupational therapy.

(3) (a) An employing facility or other training entity seeking approval to administer a feeding assistant training program shall complete and submit to the department an initial attestation in the format designated by the department certifying that the feeding assistant training program conforms

to the “Feeding Assistant Curriculum Specifications and Program Requirements.” Program approval may be granted, for a period not to exceed one year to those programs that meet minimum requirements. Department approval is required prior to initiating feeding assistant training.

(b) A training program provider approved to administer a feeding assistant training program pursuant to this section shall submit annual renewal attestation forms in the format designated by the department in the following manner:

(I) For employing facilities, annually with the facility’s annual license renewal application. (II) For other training entities, not less than sixty (60) days in advance of the date department approval expires.

(4) Training program providers approved to administer a feeding assistant training program shall maintain the training record of each individual who attends the feeding assistant training program for a period of not less than three (3) years. Based on such records, training program providers shall verify successful completion of the feeding assistant training program pursuant to a request by an employing facility in accordance with 11.001.2 (2)(b) (I).

(5) The department may deny, suspend, or withdraw approval granted under this 11.001.6 upon a determination by the department, that good cause exists to do so. Good cause may include, but is not limited to, a determination that a feeding assistant training program is not operated in compliance with applicable regulations.

11.001.7 Policies and Procedures

An employing facility shall develop and implement policies and procedures concerning the use of paid feeding assistants developed in accordance with this section.

11.001.8 Records Maintenance

(1) (a) An employing facility shall maintain a record of all individuals employed as feeding assistants and all individuals who serve as volunteer feeding assistants, including but not limited to records evidencing successful training program completion. Such records shall be maintained for not less than three (3) years from the date of separation or completion of volunteer service.

(b) Based on such records, a facility shall verify previous feeding assistant employment and volunteer history pursuant to a request by an employing facility in accordance with 11.001.2 (2)(b) (II).

11.001.9 Reporting Requirements

(1) Periodically, facilities and training program providers may be required to submit information regarding their feeding assistant program and feeding assistant training program. Such reports may include, but not be limited to:

(a) The number of feeding assistants routinely utilized by the facility to assist residents;

(b) The number of residents identified as benefiting from the feeding assistant program; and,

(c) Information concerning the feeding assistant training program administered by the training program provider

