

MONTANA

Downloaded January 2011

An Association of Montana Health Care Providers (MHA) (h) Paid feeding assistants-State-approved training course.

Definition: A paid feeding assistant means an individual employed by, or under contract to, a nursing facility to feed or assist with the feeding of nursing facility residents.

1. Curriculum. Any facility that wishes to use paid feeding assistants must provide the State Survey and Certification Bureau with a copy of their complete curriculum, teacher guide, student workbooks and learning materials and training schedule for review. Following the review, the Bureau will notify the facility of its findings by letter. Any recommendations for additions and/or changes to the submitted materials will be contained in this letter. If any additions or changes are required, the facility must submit documentation of how these additions and/or changes will be incorporated into their program. The facility must notify the Bureau of the date of planned implementation prior to final approval. Final approval will be by letter from this Bureau. Any substantial changes to a program after it has been approved must be submitted to the Bureau for review and re-approval.

2. Instructors. The primary instructor(s) of the course must be a licensed health care professional with experience in nutrition and feeding of nursing facility residents. Licensed health care professionals could include licensed nurses, dietitian, and speech and occupational therapists. Supplemental instructors may be utilized to instruct trainees in those portions of the curriculum for which they have expertise (e.g., Heimlich maneuver, resident rights).

Note: Certified nurse aides and feeding assistants **may not** be used as instructors.

(i) Successful completion of a State-approved training course means that the trainee has successfully passed the training course. The instructor must verify in writing the successful completion of the course, including a competency evaluation (test). Testing materials must be included in the training materials submitted to the Bureau for approval. Verification of competency must be filed in the trainee's personnel or training file. The State Agency has developed a skills checklist that may be utilized to verify competency. (ii) State law does not address the use of feeding assistants in nursing homes. Federal requirements are being adopted by the Department to promote quality of care to residents of nursing homes, by allowing nursing homes to utilize paid feeding assistants to enhance their dining programs.

(2) Supervision.

(i) A feeding assistant must work under the supervision of a registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN). Supervision means the general supervision of the feeding assistant by licensed nurses who are working on the premises of the facility during the times the feeding assistant(s) is performing feeding tasks.

(ii) In an emergency, a feeding assistant must call a supervisory nurse for help on the resident call system. When feeding residents in their rooms, the feeding assistant must call a supervisory nurse on

the call system when any problems occur. The facility must have a system in place to notify a supervisory nurse when feeding assistants are feeding residents in areas of the facility (e.g., dining rooms/areas) that have no resident call system.

(3) Resident selection criteria.

(i) A facility must ensure that a feeding assistant feeds only residents who have no complicated feeding problems.

(ii) Complicated feeding problems include, but are not limited to, difficulty swallowing, recurrent lung aspirations, and tube or parenteral/IV feedings.

(iii) The facility must base resident selection on the charge nurse's assessment and plan of care.

(a) Minimum training course contents. A State-approved training course for paid feeding assistants must include no less than 8 hours of training, 6 hours of which must be in classroom instruction and 2 hours in clinical demonstrations. Course content must include:

(1) Feeding techniques and

(2) Assistance with feeding and hydration. Content meet these areas of instruction should include:

-Proper nutrition (basic food groups, general and therapeutic diets, mechanically altered diets). -Food likes and dislikes; obtaining substitutions.

-Adaptive feeding equipment (sippy/nosey cups, lidded mugs, weighted utensils, scoop plates, plate guards, non-slip pads, braces/splints, etc.)

-Consistency of foods and fluids, alternating solids and liquids, bite size and rate of feeding.

-Proper positioning of resident and feeding assistant at meals. -Resident and tray preparations.

-Encouraging independence.

-Assisting residents who need supervision and cueing. -Assisting residents with partial physical assistance. -Feeding the totally dependent resident.

-Assisting the blind.

(3) Communication and interpersonal skills to include:

- Verbal and non-verbal communication.

- Focusing conversations toward residents.

- Individualizing communication with each resident. -Reporting refusals to eat

-Reporting amounts of food and fluids consumed (% of meals eaten: measurement of liquids).

(4) Appropriate responses to resident behavior.

-Factors relating to inappropriate behavior; i.e. (confusion, depression, anxiety, disruption,

disorientation, wandering)

-Techniques to gain residents' cooperation.

(5) Safety and emergency procedures.

-Heimlich maneuver

-Safe food temperatures

(5) Infection Control.

-Hand washing techniques

-Proper use of gloves

-Proper handling of food, utensils, and dishware.

(7) Resident Rights.

Instruction in resident's rights must include:

-the rights specified in CFR 483.10 of the Long Term Care requirements, and

-the rights specified in the Montana Codes Annotated, Sections 50-5-1101 through 50-5-1106.

(8) Recognizing changes in residents that are consistent with their normal behavior and the importance of reporting these changes to the supervisory nurse.

- Identifying change in eating patterns.

-Reporting observations while feeding residents. (i.e., pocketing food, poor fitting dentures/edentulous, vomiting, choking while eating, acute illness).

(9) Maintenance of records. A facility must maintain a record of all individuals used by the facility as feeding assistants, who have successfully completed the training course for paid feeding assistants. The record must be kept on file in either the trainee's personnel or training file.