

RHODE ISLAND

Downloaded January 2011

Assistance with Eating and Hydration

25.11 Nursing facilities may employ resident attendants to assist residents with activities of eating and drinking. The resident attendant shall not be counted in the direct care staffing levels (see also section 24.4 herein).

25.12 A nursing facility shall not use any individual on a paid or unpaid basis in the capacity of a resident attendant, as defined herein, in the nursing home unless the individual:

- a) has satisfactorily completed a training program approved by the Director, as described in section 25.14 of these regulations;
- b) continues to provide competent eating and hydration assistance as determined by the facility's professional nursing staff.

25.13 The facility shall ensure:

- a) the resident attendant works in congregate dining areas under the supervision of a registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN);
- b) the resident attendant wears a photo identification badge in accordance with section 14.14 of these regulations;
- c) the resident attendant only assists residents selected by the professional nursing staff, based on the charge nurse's assessment and the resident's latest assessment and plan of care;
- d) the resident attendant assists with eating and drinking for residents who have no complicated eating/feeding problems, including but not limited to:
 - i. Tube or Parenteral/IV feedings;
 - ii. Recurrent lung aspirations;
 - iii. Difficulty swallowing;
 - iv. Residents at risk of choking while eating or drinking;
 - v. Residents with significant behavior management challenges while eating or drinking;
 - vi. Residents presenting other risk factors that may require emergency intervention.
- e) maintenance of records regarding individuals acting as resident attendants and the training program attended.