

Dietetic Technician Registered - Local

This is skilled technical work which supports and extends the services provided by the registered dietitian or nutritionist in the provision of nutritional care of clients in the agency. The primary purpose is to determine eligibility of clients for the WIC Program and provide low risk nutrition education to them. Under the supervision of a registered dietitian or nutritionist employees collect and assimilate a variety of data base information using all available sources to be used by the registered dietitian or nutritionist in preparing the client's nutritional assessment and may serve as liaison with medical and interdisciplinary team at patient conferences. Work involves collecting and assessing medical history, anthropometric, biochemical, clinical, dietary, eco-social data, and providing nutrition education to clients and families, and occasional in-service training. Employees report to the registered dietitian or nutritionist.

I. Difficulty of Work:

Complexity- Under the supervision of a registered dietitian or nutritionist employees collect and assimilate pertinent subjective data, anthropometric measurements and laboratory values through review of patient records and patient interviews to be used by the clinical dietitian in the development of the nutritional care plan, and evaluating a patient compliance and response to a prescribed program. These employees are also responsible for assisting in providing low risk nutrition education to the clients and families.

Guidelines- Guidelines include professional publications and textbooks, government food composition tables, departmental and divisional policies and procedural manuals, federal guidelines and others as applicable. Guidelines are provided through doctor referrals, nurses, interdisciplinary team conferences and dietitians or nutritionists.

II. Responsibility:

Accountability- Employees are responsible for gathering valid pertinent client data through reviewing a variety of patient records, interviews with the clients, client's caretakers and members of the local agency team. This information is used to determine eligibility for the WIC Program, development of nutritional care plans; and provide appropriate nutrition education.

Consequence of Action- Decisions regarding the development of nutritional assessments, nutritional care plans and nutrition education are directly influenced by the caliber of information collected by these employees and forwarded to the clinical dietitian. Failure to compile valid information could affect the eligibility for the WIC Program, the client's adjustment to change in dietary habits and the quality of health maintained. Decisions may also affect cost and efficiency in the WIC Program and to other members of the health care team.

Review- Work is reviewed by a registered dietitian or nutritionist through periodic observation of work, analysis of reports, conferences, and client's progress.

III. Interpersonal Communications:

Subject Matter- Work requires a basic knowledge of the principles of nutrition and diet therapy, and feeding techniques. Work requires good basic mathematical skills, knowledge of medical terminology, and good skills in written and verbal communication.

Purpose- The purpose of this position is to provide support and extend the services of the nutritionist and dietitian by collecting and assessing data to determine WIC Program eligibility and to provide nutrition education to clients and families.

IV. Work Environment:

Nature of Working Conditions- Work conditions in a local health agency or other medical complex may be mildly disagreeable according to the type and condition of the assigned client population.

Nature and Potential of Personal Hazards- Employees work with a variety of clients and may have contact with potentially dangerous and combative individuals. Employees may periodically be in contact with a wide variety of illnesses and diseases.

V. Recruitment Standards:

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities- General knowledge of accepted principles and practices of nutrition and dietetics. Skill in collecting and assimilating data and communications. Ability to establish and maintain rapport with staff and clients.

Minimum Education and Experience- Completion of a two-year associate degree program approved by the American Dietetic Association for Dietetic Technicians; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Administering the Class- Applicants who possess a four year degree in dietetics, nutrition, or a directly related area may be hired above the hiring rate.

Applicants from a two-year degree program must have successfully passed the DTR exam administered by the American Dietetic Association Commission on Dietetic Registration.