

Code: 4348

Title: CLINICAL DIETICIAN - SENIOR

SUMMARY: This classification performs professional dietetic work by assessing client nutritional needs, developing and implementing nutrition care plans, providing therapeutic dietary advice and serves as designated nutrition expert to clients. Some positions may supervise Clinical Dietitians or nutrition support staff.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: (Work assignments may vary depending on the department's needs and will be communicated to the applicant or incumbent by the supervisor.)

Develops, implements, monitors and evaluates individualized client nutritional care plans and reports by reviewing patient charts, diagnoses, anthropometric, biochemical, clinical, dietary, socioeconomic and behavioral data and recommends to client food preparation methods, vitamin and mineral supplements, menu selection and planning and supplemental food resources based on nutritional needs set forth in care plans;

Assesses nutritional risk by interviewing client, reviewing client's charts, interpreting laboratory results and consulting with physicians and other health care professionals;

Acts as the expert in nutrition support in critical care diagnoses, to include the nutrition assessment and care of client receiving enteral or total parenteral nutrition;

Supervises professional and support nutrition staff and assigns work to provide clinical nutrition services for all patients;

Develops nutrition standards of care, participates in establishment and review of procedures;

Documents all nutrition assessments, interventions and physician's verbal orders into clients automated computer based medical records;

Develops educational materials and educates clients, families, health care staff and community on nutritional principles, therapeutic diets, diet regimens, food selection and preparation, drug and food interactions, economics of food, enteral and parenteral nutrition and other subjects related to nutrition;

Writes therapeutic diet menus to comply with dietary prescriptions ordered by physicians, and evaluates food package issuance for conformance to dietary prescriptions and quality standards;

Refers clients to other nutrition, health or social service agencies for additional assistance;

May be required to participate in public health emergency events, exercises and training.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS:

Knowledge of:

- principles and practices of dietetics;
- nutrition support of critical care patients;
- quality improvement methods;
- teaching methods applicable to nutrition education;
- principles and practices of employee supervision, training, evaluation and management.

Skill in:

- implementing, understanding and following County, state, and regulatory agencies requirements pertaining to clinical nutrition services;
- determining nutritional needs of individuals through nutrition assessment;
- coordinating nutritional care management for individual clients;
- planning menus to meet rigid requirements of mineral, vitamin, caloric and related content;

- analyzing the problems inherent in satisfying the food tastes of diverse client populations in accordance with dietetic standards;
- understanding and relating to the problems of low income and minority individuals and their families;
- interpreting laboratory results;
- communicating effectively both orally and in writing;
- modifying client behavior as it relates to nutrition and general health;
- developing, implementing and evaluating nutrition programs and systems;.
- supervising, training and evaluating employees;
- teaching nutrition classes in food values, economics of food, the relationship of nutrition to disease, special diets and associated foods for the public, staff and professional groups.
- entering information into client automated computer based medical records.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

A Bachelor's degree or advanced degree from an accredited college or university with a major in nutrition, dietetics, food service management or a closely related field as determined by appointing authority and current registration as a Registered Dietitian (RD) by Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics plus two years of experience as a dietician.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Licenses and Certificates: Some positions require County-provided certification in capillary finger punctures and/or venipuncture within six months of appointment. Registration as a Dietitian (RD) by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is required at the time of appointment or prior to completion of initial probation. All positions require a valid Arizona Class D driver license at the time of application. Failure to obtain/maintain required registration/licensure/certification shall be grounds for termination.

Special Notice Items: Department of Labor regulation CFR Part 1910.1030 requires notification that this category may have a high risk of exposure to blood-borne pathogens. In accordance with OSHA and Pima County guidelines Tuberculin (TB) screening, Hepatitis B vaccinations and safety training and equipment will be provided. Employee must provide own transportation between facility locations. All positions require competence using the Women Infant and Children (WIC) automation system within six months of appointment due to Federal and State regulations, policies, procedures and contract requirements for WIC. Failure to acquire/demonstrate the required competence within six months of appointment may be grounds for termination. Some positions may require bilingual abilities in English and a second language, as determined by the Department.

Physical/Sensory Requirements: The ability to properly wear required safety clothing and/or equipment. Other physical/sensory requirements will be determined by position.

This classification specification is intended to indicate the basic nature of positions allocated to the classification and examples of typical duties that may be assigned. It does not imply that all positions within the classification perform all of the duties listed, nor does it necessarily list all possible duties that may be assigned.