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## Paid Feeding Assistant

Purpose: To ensure \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (facility) will use a Paid Feeding Assistant Program in compliance with CMS Regulations, which includes all participants completing a state approved training course.

Scope: Compliance with CMS: F811 §483.60(h)

POLICY

Policy Statement

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Facility) will assure all paid feeding assistant participants will only be used after meeting the criteria as outlined in the Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) State Operations Manual CMS: F811 §483.60(h). The facility will assure all paid feeding assistants complete a State regulatory approved training course. The Facility will have appropriate nursing staff identify residents who are approved to receive dining assistance by the paid feeding assistant. Eligible residents are without complicated feeding problems such as (but not limited to) recurrent lung aspirations, difficulty swallowing, and a feeding tube or IV feeding. All paid feeding assistants will be adequately supervised by a RN or LPN.

Procedure

1. The facility will assure all participates for the paid feeding assistance
	1. Completed a training course meeting CMS: F811 §483.60(h) and the State regulation.
	2. The training course must be a minimum of 8 hours in a state approved training course which includes:
		1. -Feeding techniques
		2. -Assistance with feeding and hydration
		3. -Communication and interpersonal skills
		4. -Appropriate responses to resident behavior
		5. -Safety and emergency procedures, including the Heimlich maneuver -Infection control
		6. -Resident rights
		7. -Recognizing changes in residents that are inconsistent with their
		8. normal behavior and the importance of reporting those changes to
		9. the supervisory nurse.
2. Supervision
	1. A feeding assistant must work under the supervision of a registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN). Supervision should focus on avoiding negative outcomes for residents.
	2. A feeding assistant should know who their supervisor is at all times and where to locate them in a case of emergency.
	3. Supervisor will assure the paid feeding assistant is monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure:
		1. -Complies with resident dignity and rights
		2. –Is using correct infection control and safety practice
		3. -Appropriate feeding technique is used
		4. -Are assisting residents based on their identified feeding assistance
		5. needs as they have been instructed with eating and drinking
		6. -The Assistant needs to be aware in case of an emergency, even if
		7. they are assisting a resident, the importance of obtaining timely help
		8. of a supervisor.
3. Resident selection criteria
	1. The facility must ensure the feeding assistant is providing only assistance for those residents who have been identified as needing assistance and are without complicated feeding problems (recurrent lung aspirations, difficulty swallowing, and a feeding tube or IV feeding). The facility will ensure LPNs or CNAs will provide feeding assistance for those residents with complicated feeding problems

- Eligible residents include

 \*Need help getting to the dining room or meal location

 \* Have some independence but need meal set up (plate/utensil/cup

 placement, food orientation to plate)

 \*Need food preparation (cutting up meat, buttering bread, adding

 condiments)

 \*Need encouragement and/or conversation during meals

 \*Assistance with drinking a beverage

 \*In some cases, feed the resident

 \*Take the resident back to their room

 \*Record food and fluid intake according to the facility policy

-Non-eligible residents with complicated feeding problems include

 \*Those with recurrent lung aspirations

 \*Difficulty with swallowing

 \*Tube feeding or IV feeding

b. The facility will ensure all eligible residents are identified by the charge nurse

 using current assessment of the resident's condition and the resident’s latest

 comprehensive assessment, care plan and may consult with other

 professionals such as Speech Language Pathologists and Occupational

 Therapists to help identify eligible residents.

1. The Facility with maintain a record of all individuals qualified and who may participate in the paid feeding assistance. This will include those individuals’ verification of successful completion of a state-approved training course for paid feeding assistants.
2. The Facility may use existing Staff as Paid Feeding Assistants. Participating staff must complete the required 8-hour minimum CMS and State training course and verification of completion on file. Employees may include but are not limited to administrative, clerical, housekeeping, dietary staff, or activity specialists.

References:

\*Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. State Operations Manual Appendix PP - Guidance to Surveyors for Long Term Care Facilities. Available at https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and- Certification/GuidanceforLawsAndRegulations/Downloads/Appendix-PP-State-Operations- Manual.pdf.

\*Walker, PhD. Bonnie; Cole, MA, RN, C. Claire. AHACA American Health Care Association. *Assisted Dining: The Role and Skills of Feeding Assistance.* Copyright©2003 AHCA, revised 2013