



## UNION JOB DESCRIPTION

JD568

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| <b>JOB TITLE:</b>            | Clinical Dietitian   | <b>JOB DESCRIPTION NO.:</b>        | 60265/P.CI.30200.012 |
| <b>CLASSIFICATION:</b>       | Dietitian P1   | <b>GRID/PAY LEVEL:</b>             | H-G-P1               |
| <b>COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT:</b> | Health Science Professionals   | <b>HSCIS NO.:</b>                  | 30901                |
| <b>UNION:</b>                | HSA  | <b>JOB/CLASS CODE:</b>             | 30901                |
| <b>PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT:</b>   | Chronic Disease Management and Nutrition Therapy Services                            | <b>BENCHMARKS (If Applicable):</b> |                      |
| <b>REPORTING TO:</b>         | Coordinator, Nutrition Services  |                                    |                      |
| <b>FACILITY/SITE:</b>        | Royal Jubilee Hospital; Victoria General Hospital; Nanaimo Regional General Hospital |                                    |                      |

### JOB SUMMARY:

In accordance with the Vision, Purpose, and Values, and strategic direction of the Vancouver Island Health Authority (Island Health), patient and staff safety is a priority and a responsibility shared by everyone; as such, the requirement to continuously improve quality and safety is inherent in all aspects of this position.

Reports to Coordinator, Nutrition Services; plans, implements, and evaluates medical nutritional therapy for hospital-based and/or facility-based patients according to guidelines established by Nutrition Services. Manages the nutrition care for patients receiving parenteral nutrition. Instructs and counsels patients and families regarding appropriate nutritional requirements, nutritional regimes, and food planning and preparation. Provides recommendations to the medical team regarding routine of nutrition support, i.e. enteral vs parenteral, and composition of most appropriate nutrition support and vitamin and mineral supplementation, based on the current practice guidelines and best practices. Provides input to the Coordinator in the development of nutrition practice guidelines and procedures, research and quality improvement initiatives for the program

### TYPICAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Assesses the patient's nutritional needs by evaluating biochemical, anthropometric, nutrition-related parameters and/or global assessment; develops and implements a comprehensive nutrition plan and makes recommendations regarding nutrient requirements, feeding choices, method of delivery including parenteral nutrition and/or diet order.
2. Monitors and evaluates nutrition plan by reviewing biochemical, anthropometric and nutrition-related parameters; modifies, revises and/or recommends changes to the patient's nutrition plan in collaboration with the multidisciplinary team and patient/family; consults with the physician and the other health care professionals regarding patient response to nutrition care plans; communicates care plan to other health care providers, family and/or caregivers in the hospital or community including parenteral nutrition
3. Evaluates nutritional status/risk of patients and develops/designs, implements, evaluates (initial and ongoing), and documents an appropriate nutritional care plan for patients requiring home enteral/parenteral nutrition support.
4. Provides, evidence-based, cost effective, quality nutritional support in consultation with other members of the health care team by:
  - Responding to referrals from professional staff; patient/family;
  - Assessing patients' nutritional status and screening for dysphagia
  - Interpreting and making recommendations regarding diet, enteral and parenteral orders as appropriate;

- Developing and implementing nutritional care plans, including discharge planning and teaching;
- Monitoring and evaluating patients' nutritional care (e.g. monitoring laboratory results and adjusting care as appropriate);
- Planning, organizing, implementing and evaluating nutrition education for patients, families, and caregivers;
- Discussing patients' nutritional care at health team conferences and patient care rounds as appropriate;
- Providing accurate and complete nutritional documentation in the patients' health record;
- Providing effective communication with physicians and health team members about nutrition management;
- Providing nutritional counselling to patients and clients on an individual and/or group basis, as required.

5. Manages the nutrition care for patients receiving parenteral and enteral nutrition. Serves as a nutrition support resource dietitian to site dietitians and dietetic interns.

6. Communicates to Food Services personnel specific information required to provide appropriate foodservice to individual patients (e.g. care plans, enteral orders).

7. Develops and presents in-service education for VIHA staff and students.

8. Communicates with Nutrition Liaison Coordinator regarding ward food service issues. May participate in evaluation of clinical standards and development of guidelines for menu planning. May participate in evaluation of products from a clinical nutrition perspective.

9. Provides instruction or supervision to students such as dietetic interns as requested by Internship Coordinator.

10. Develops, implements and evaluates nutrition practice tools (e.g. patient education materials, screening and nutrition therapy algorithms) in the implementation of medical nutrition therapy.

11. Makes recommendations to Nutrition Services Coordinator regarding projects, studies and department goals for improving the delivery of nutritional care.

12. Represents Nutrition Services at various committees as delegated by the Nutrition Services Coordinator.

13. Participates in the department quality assurance program by identifying and initiating quality improvement activities to support practice change and assisting/completing a variety of audits, such as statistics and client outcomes data collection.

14. Keeps abreast of current developments in the dietetic field by reviewing current literature, participating in journal club, and attending related in-services and workshops.

15. Performs other related duties as assigned.

## **QUALIFICATIONS:**

### **Education, Training And Experience**

Bachelor's degree from a recognized university with a major in dietetics/nutrition or equivalent. Completion of an accredited dietetic internship program. Current licensure in a practicing category with the College of Health and Care Professionals of BC as a Dietitian including Restricted Activity A & B. Two (2) years recent relevant experience in a medical/ surgical care setting plus Certified Nutrition Support Clinician (CNSC) from the American Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN) or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience. Evidence of ongoing professional development

### **Skills And Abilities**

- Knowledge of enteral and parenteral nutrition, feeding tube access and delivery methods and the ability to interpret and make recommendations as necessary.
- Knowledge of other health care disciplines, their role in health care and the ability to coordinate activities with staff, patients, food services, and/ or support agencies.

- Ability to establish and maintain effective work relationships with patients and their families, members of the medical team, departmental employees and representatives of community agencies.
- Ability to organize workload, set priorities and work with minimal supervision.
- Ability to effectively use computer and software applications
- Knowledge of clinical theory and practice within a client/family centred model for care
- Knowledge of enteral and parenteral nutrition, feeding tube access and delivery methods
- Knowledge of the metabolic basis of nutritional care
- Knowledge of the standards of practice and guidelines for clinical practitioners established by the College of Health and Care Professionals of BC.
- Knowledge of assessing clients with multi-system nutritional problems
- Knowledge of other health care disciplines and their role in client care
- Knowledge of research process and methodology
- Demonstrated ability to plan and implement nutrition care plans in relation to client/family priorities
- Demonstrated ability to assess client responses to care plan, and to respond appropriately
- Demonstrated ability to adjust to new or unexpected events, deal with conflict situations and problem-solve and to think critically