

HB 277 -- HOSPITAL FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES

SPONSOR: Cornejo

This bill specifies that each hospital must have an employee or contracted individual who is designated to serve as director of food and nutrition services; responsible for the daily management of the food and nutrition services; qualified by education, training, and experience in food service management and nutrition through an approved course for certification by the Dietary Managers Association or registration by the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics or an associate degree in dietetics or food systems management; and has documented evidence of annual continuing education.

If the director is not a qualified dietitian, a qualified dietitian must be employed on a part-time or consultant basis and make visits to the facility to assist in meeting the nutritional needs of the patients and the scope of services offered.

The bill specifies the duties and responsibilities of the director.

If the qualified dietitian serves as a consultant, written reports must be submitted to and approved by the chief executive officer or designee concerning the services provided.

The director must have the authority to implement written policies and procedures governing food and nutrition services and the responsibility for evaluating and monitoring to ensure they are followed. The policies and procedures must include processes to ensure appropriate nutritional care and clinically-indicated nutritional interventions are provided and regularly communicated to all healthcare providers. Prompt nutrition intervention for patients who are malnourished or at risk for malnutrition must be a high priority and may be addressed by establishing automated processes that trigger intervention upon a positive screening for malnutrition. Nutritional care planning must be a component of the overall discharge plan when clinically indicated and provided to patients, family members, and caregivers. Policies and procedures are to be reviewed and kept current per hospital policy and readily available to staff.

Food and nutrition services must be staffed with a sufficient number of qualified personnel and menus must be planned, written, and followed to meet the nutritional needs of the patients as determined by the recommended dietary allowances of the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences, or as modified by physician's order.

The bill specifies that diets must be prescribed in accordance with the diet manual approved by the qualified dietitian and the medical staff, and the diet manual must be available to all medical, nursing, and food service personnel.

At least three meals or their equivalent must be offered with supplementary snacks and/or oral nutrition supplements as necessary. Food and nutrition records must be maintained and include: food specifications and purchase orders, meal count, standardized recipes, menu plans, nutritional evaluation of menus, and minutes of departmental and in-service education meetings.

The food and nutrition services must comply with 19 CSR 20-1.025 Sanitation of Food Establishments. If there is a contract to provide food and nutrition services to a hospital, the hospital is responsible for assuring that contractual services comply with rules concerning food and nutrition services in hospitals.