

# **Paid Feeding Assistants**

## **Sample PP during \*COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Policy Statement:** It is the policy of the facility to ensure residents are provided with assistance at meals to ensure adequate intake and a pleasant dining experience. To assist with this our facility uses Paid Feeding Assistants to feed residents without complicated feeding problems.

### **Policy Interpretation and Implementation**

1. Paid Feeding Assistants must participate in a minimum of a 1-hour training and successfully complete a competency conducted by a licensed nurse before being permitted to assist residents with feeding.
2. The AHCA training program consists of a 1-hour online training in the following topics:
  - a. Feeding techniques;
  - b. Assistance with feeding and hydration;
  - c. Communication and interpersonal skills;
  - d. Appropriate responses to resident behavior;
  - e. Safety and emergency procedures, including the Heimlich maneuver;
  - f. Basic infection control practices related to food and feeding;
  - g. Resident rights; and
  - h. Identifying and reporting changes in a resident's usual behavior.
3. Our facility's Paid Feeding Assistants will work under the supervision of a Registered Nurse (RN) or a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). Specifically, the supervising nurse will monitor Paid Feeding Assistants for:
  - a. The use of appropriate feeding techniques;
  - b. Whether they are assisting the resident according to his/her identified eating and drinking needs;
  - c. Whether they are respecting the resident's rights and dignity; and
  - d. Adherence to infection control and safe food handling practices.
4. In conjunction with the facility's Registered Dietitian (RD), an RN will oversee the Feeding Assistant Training Program to ensure that feeding techniques are taught correctly.
5. Only residents who have been selected by the Charge Nurse are eligible for feeding assistance by a Paid Feeding Assistant. Resident selection is based on the current condition and the latest comprehensive assessment and care plan.
6. Feeding Assistants will provide assistance in accordance with the resident's assessed

needs and his or her plan of care.

7. Paid Feeding Assistants will not feed residents with complex feeding problems (i.e., dysphagia, history of aspiration, enteral/parenteral feedings) or other residents precluded by the RN, RD, or Speech and Language Pathologist.
8. In the case of an emergency, the Paid Feeding Assistant shall call the Nurse Supervisor through the resident call system.
9. Paid Feeding Assistants will report or record resident intake after each meal, and report changes in eating patterns to the RN and/or RD.
10. The administrative office will maintain a record of each individual's completion of the Feeding Assistant Training and competency.
11. Any staff who has completed the Feeding Assistant Training Program and successfully demonstrated competency may feed residents.
12. Inquiries concerning our facility's use of Paid Feeding Assistants should be referred to the Director of Nursing Services or to the Administrator.

\*See CMS & NYS 1135 WAIVER Covid-19