

SUBCHAPTER 19. FEEDING ASSISTANTS

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310:675-19-1. Purpose

This Subchapter establishes standards for training and registration of feeding assistants in Oklahoma in accordance with 42 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 483 and 488. The intent is to give nursing, specialized nursing, and skilled nursing facilities the option to use paid feeding assistants, allowing them to provide more residents with help in eating and drinking and reduce the incidence of unplanned weight loss and dehydration.

[Source: Added at 23 Ok Reg 557, eff 12-22-2005 (emergency); Added at 23 Ok Reg 2415, eff 6-25-2006]

310:675-19-2. Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this Subchapter, shall have the following meaning, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Feeding assistant" means an individual who is paid to feed residents by a facility or who is used under an arrangement with another agency or organization and meets the requirements cited in 42 CFR Parts 483 and 488 [63:1-1951(F)(1)].

[Source: Added at 23 Ok Reg 557, eff 12-22-2005 (emergency); Added at 23 Ok Reg 2415, eff 6-25-2006]

310:675-19-3. Training course

(a) The following training curricula are approved as training courses and meet the requirements specified in 42 CFR 483.160(a):

- (1) Eating Matters: A Training Manual for Feeding Assistants, published by the American Dietetic Association, 2003 edition; and Eating Matters: Feeding Assistants Manual, published by the American Dietetic Association, 2003 edition; or
- (2) Assisted Dining: The Role and Skills of Feeding

Assistants, published by the American Health Care Association, 2003 edition.

(b) A feeding assistant training course must consist of at least eight (8) hours of training in the required areas of instruction.

(c) A feeding assistant training course instructor must hold a current valid license as:

- (1) A registered nurse;
- (2) A licensed practical nurse;
- (3) A registered dietitian;
- (4) A speech-language pathologist or speech therapist; or
- (5) An occupational therapist.

(d) Successful completion of a training course is based upon the instructor's assessment using a staff competency checklist that conforms to OAC 310:675-19-8.

(e) The training course must provide a certificate of completion within 30 days of course completion to each individual who successfully completed the course. The certificate shall conform to OAC 310:675-19-8.

(f) The Department will not restrict an individual from repeating a training course. The training course may establish limits on the number of times an individual may repeat the course after unsuccessful attempts.

[Source: Added at 23 Ok Reg 557, eff 12-22-2005 (emergency); Added at 23 Ok Reg 2415, eff 6-25-2006]

310:675-19-4. Facility requirements

(a) The nursing facility, specialized nursing facility, or skilled nursing facility must maintain a record of each individual who has successfully completed the approved training course. For each individual feeding assistant employed by the facility, the facility must maintain:

- (1) A copy of a staff competency checklist completed and signed by the instructor on the form specified in OAC 310:675-19-8;
- (2) A copy of a certificate of completion signed by the instructor on the form specified in OAC 310:675-19-8;
- (3) Verification that the facility checked with the Feeding Assistant Registry to ensure the individual is eligible for employment; and
- (4) Verification of compliance with the Criminal History Background Check in 63 O.S. Supp. 2004, Section 1-1950.1.

(b) Each feeding assistant must work under the supervision of a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse. In an emergency,

the feeding assistant must call a supervisory nurse for help using the resident call system if the nurse is not present during the feeding of a resident.

(c) The facility must ensure that a feeding assistant only assists residents who have no complicated feeding problems. The facility must base resident selection on the charge nurse's assessment and the resident's latest assessment and plan of care. Complicated feeding problems include but are not limited to:

- (1) Difficulty swallowing;
- (2) Recurrent lung aspirations; or
- (3) Tube or parenteral/IV feedings.

(d) Instructor time shall not count toward minimum staffing requirements.

(e) The facility shall check the Feeding Assistant Registry before hiring a person to work as a feeding assistant. If the registry indicates that the individual has been found to be personally responsible for abuse, neglect, exploitation, or misappropriation of resident property, that individual shall not be hired by the facility.

(f) The facility must maintain proof of compliance with this subchapter at all times at the facility site.

[Source: Added at 23 Ok Reg 557, eff 12-22-2005 (emergency); Added at 23 Ok Reg 2415, eff 6-25-2006]

310:675-19-5. Feeding assistant registry

The Department shall maintain a feeding assistant registry consistent with the registry operation described in OAC 310:677-5-2(c). The registry shall contain information consistent with that described in 63 O.S. Supp. 2004, Section 1-1951(D) (3).

[Source: Added at 23 Ok Reg 557, eff 12-22-2005 (emergency); Added at 23 Ok Reg 2415, eff 6-25-2006]

310:675-19-6. Feeding assistant registration

(a) An individual may perform the services of a feeding assistant upon successful completion of an approved training course and shall submit a Feeding Assistant Registration Application to the Department on the form specified in 310:675-19-8.

(b) Each registered feeding assistant shall renew individual registration once every twenty-four (24) months. The individual shall submit a Feeding Assistant Renewal Application with proof that within the past twenty-four (24) months they have:

- (1) Worked at least eight (8) hours for compensation as a feeding assistant; or
 - (2) Completed another eight (8) hour training course that complies with OAC 310:675-19-3.
- (c) A non-refundable application fee of ten dollars (\$10) shall be included with an application for initial or renewal registration.

[**Source:** Added at 23 Ok Reg 557, eff 12-22-2005 (emergency); Added at 23 Ok Reg 2415, eff 6-25-2006; Amended at 26 Ok Reg 2059, eff 6-25-2009]

310:675-19-7. Revocation, suspension and denial

(a) The State Health Department's procedure afforded a feeding assistant for purposes of investigating, hearing, and making findings on allegations of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or misappropriation of resident property, shall be not less than the process afforded nurse aides pursuant to Title 63 O.S. Supp. 2004 Section 1-1951(D)(4) through (12).

(b) A feeding assistant's registration may be revoked, suspended or denied if the Department determines with clear and convincing evidence that an individual has been responsible for any of the following:

- (1) Abuse;
- (2) Neglect;
- (3) Exploitation; or
- (4) Misappropriation of resident or client property.

[**Source:** Added at 23 Ok Reg 557, eff 12-22-2005 (emergency); Added at 23 Ok Reg 2415, eff 6-25-2006]

310:675-19-8. Feeding assistant forms

The forms used for this subchapter are the following.

(1) Staff competency checklist. A training course using the curriculum specified in 310:675-19-3(a)(1) may use the checklist provided with that curriculum or the checklist provided by the Department. Other training courses shall use the checklist provided by the Department. The competency checklist provided by the Department requires the following:

- (A) The name of the person being trained;
- (B) Evaluation of skills task performances including:
 - (i) Safety and emergency procedures including the Heimlich maneuver;
 - (ii) Sanitation and washing hands;
 - (iii) Serving a meal tray;

- (iv) Assistance with resident requiring total feeding;
 - (v) Serving supplemental nourishments; and
 - (vi) Serving fresh drinking water;
 - (C) The date of the evaluation; and
 - (D) Name and signature of the instructor.
- (2) Certificate of completion. A training course using the curriculum specified in 310:675-19-3(a)(1) may use the certificate of completion provided with that curriculum or the certificate provided by the Department. Other training courses shall use the certificate provided by the Department. The certificate of completion provided by the Department requires the following:
- (A) Name of the person being trained;
 - (B) Name of the curriculum;
 - (C) Location where the training occurred;
 - (D) Date training was completed;
 - (E) A statement that the person successfully completed eight hours of training to become a feeding assistant; and
 - (F) Name and signature of the instructor.
- (3) Feeding assistant registration application. The application form requires the following for each individual:
- (A) Name;
 - (B) Date of birth;
 - (C) Contact information;
 - (D) Information sufficient to identify the individual including social security number;
 - (E) A copy of the certificate of completion from a training course that meets the requirements of OAC 310:675-19-3; and
 - (F) Applicant's signature affirming the truthfulness and completeness of the application.
- (4) Feeding assistant renewal application. The application form requires the following for each individual:
- (A) Name;
 - (B) Date of birth;
 - (C) Contact information;
 - (D) Information sufficient to identify the individual including social security number;
 - (E) Proof of work experience or retraining as required in OAC 310:675-19-6(c); and
 - (F) Applicant's signature affirming the truthfulness and completeness of the application.

[Source: Added at 23 Ok Reg 557, eff 12-22-2005 (emergency); Added at 23 Ok Reg 2415, eff 6-25-2006]