Introduction
The purpose of this policy is to establish consistent ordering practices for in-scope orders by dietitians, safe and clear communication of nutrition orders, thereby reducing the potential for preventable errors or adverse events.

Site Applicability
BC Children’s Hospital, all inpatient areas
BC Women’s Hospital, all inpatient areas

Practice Level/Competencies
Professional Roles – in scope orders for dietitians include oral diets, oral nutrition supplements, breastmilk or pasteurized donor milk, infant feeding or enteral/tube feeding.
Dietetic students may write nutrition orders; the supervising RD must cosign orders prior to processing. See College of Dietitians of British Columbia, co-signing intern (student) records.

Policy Statement(s)
A nutrition order is required for all inpatients (oral diets, infant feeding, enteral/tube feeding) before foods, beverages, or other sources of nutrition can be delivered to the patient.
Registered Dietitians (RD) may write in scope orders.
All nutrition orders will be written using safe ordering practices consistent with applicable components of the PTN Nutrition Order Requirements Policy.
All nutrition orders will be written according to order standards feed type (oral diet, infant and pediatric formula, human breastmilk and pasteurized donor milk); See Nutrition Order Standards documents.

Standards of Practice
• All nutrition orders written by the RD must be made in collaboration with the health care team. The most responsible physician or designate must be aware of all documented nutrition orders.
• The nutrition order and associated feeding schedules will be discussed with patient/caregiver and the patient’s nurse.
• After hours, on weekends or statutory holidays when RDs are not on-site, nutrition orders must be written by a physician, midwife or nurse practitioner.

Related Documents
• CC.01.012 Nutrition Order Procedures: Ordering infant formula, tube feed (enteral) formula and oral diets
• C-0506-14-60394 Infant and Enteral Formulary
• CC.12.10 Tube Feeding Procedures
• PTN.01.001 Medication Order Requirements
• PTN.01.017 Nutrition Order Requirements
• PTN.01.017A Nutrition Order Requirements: Human Breastmilk and Pasteurized Donor Milk Feeds
• PTN.01.017B Nutrition Order Requirements: Infant and Pediatric Formula
• PTN.01.017C Nutrition Order Requirements: Oral Diets
Documentation

The Registered Dietitian will document the conversation with the Most Responsible Provider (MRP), including MRP name.

Nutrition orders will be documented in the Prescriber’s Orders and on the profession specific assessment in the patient’s medical health record.

Changes to nutrition orders will be documented in the Prescriber’s Orders and will be updated in the profession specific assessment with the corresponding clinical rationale.

References


Definitions

‘Nutrition Orders’ are a generalized term for a variety of orders, including oral diets, oral nutrition supplements, infant feeding (infant formula, human breastmilk and pasteurized donor human milk), or tube feeding (enteral formula).

‘Oral Nutrition Supplements’ Oral Nutrition Supplements’ are foods, usually liquefied and high in caloric content, which are used in addition to the normal diet, and not as a food replacement, when diet alone is insufficient to meet daily nutritional requirements.

Version History

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<td>C-0506-11-60614 Nutrition Orders by Dietitians</td>
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