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

Introduction
The purpose of this policy is to establish consistent ordering practice for providers, safe and clear communication of nutrition orders, thereby reducing the potential for preventable errors or adverse events. It applies to all inpatient services.

This document outlines the policy and standards for nutrition orders.

Practice Level/Competencies
Entry Level Skill – for all prescribers and health providers with order privileges.

Professional Roles – Dietitians may order oral diets, infant or enteral feeds. See PTN Policy 01.012 Nutrition Orders by Dietitians.

Policy Statement(s)
All inpatients require an order for nutrition (oral diets, infant feeding, tube feeding) before foods, beverages, or other sources of nutrition can be delivered to the patient.

All orders for nutrition will be written using safe ordering practices consistent with applicable components of PTN.01.001 Medication Order Requirements Policy, and must minimally contain core order components:
- Patient Name and Medical Record Number
- Date and Time the order was written
- Prescriber signature, printed name and College Identification number

All orders will:
- Follow order standards feed type (oral diet, infant formula/pediatric formula, expressed breastmilk, tube feeding); See Standards documents.
- Be written in System International Units (metric, kcal/100mL or kcal/mL), where applicable
- Contain only acceptable abbreviations (See BCCH Safe Medication Order Writing Tool)
- Be legible

Medications to be added to formula must be ordered separately; nursing instructions must be documented for addition of medications to formulas.
Orders for specialty feeds (formulas for biochemical diseases, ketogenic diet program formulas, nephrology) must include a list of ingredients by gram weight or volume in mL. Follow area specific practice. Contact the program dietitian for patient specific guidance.

Related Documents

Related Policies
- PTN.01.001 Medication Order Requirements Policy
- PTN.01.012 Nutrition Orders by Dietitians
- 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
Guidelines/Procedures/Forms
- C-0506-14-60394 Infant and Enteral Formulary
- CC.01.012 Nutrition Order Procedures: Ordering infant formula, tube feed (enteral) formula and oral diets

Documentation
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, infant feeding (infant formula, human milk – expressed breast milk or pasteurized donor human milk), or tube feeding formula. Home blenderized feeds are ordered and fed via tube as defined in the Home Blenderized Feed Policy (PTN 01.015).

Developed By
Professional Practice Leader, Nutrition

Version History

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<td>C-0506-12-60419 Nutrition Order Requirements</td>
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