

Unit 1

Role of the Feeding Assistant

Terminology Defined

1. **Feeding Assistant** - Any individual who has successfully completed a state-approved feeding assistant curriculum in accordance with Federal Requirements 42 CFR 483.160 and who works under the supervision of a licensed nurse, feeding residents; does not include nurse aides or licensed nurses when feeding is performed as part of their regular nurse aide or nursing duties.

Unit I

Unit 1 – Role of the Feeding Assistant		
Objectives	Content	Learning Activities
	I. The Role of the Feeding Assistant	
1.0 Examine the role of the Feeding Assistant	A. Federal Regulations describing a single-task worker, the Feeding Assistant	Discuss regulations 42 CFR 483.35, 483.160, 483.301, 483.7, 483.75
	B. Aging population in facilities more acute than ever before 1. More staff time taken with high levels of care 2. Less time for routine tasks like feeding residents who need minimal assistance	
	C. Goal of Regulations 1. To supplement, not replace nurse aides 2. To provide more residents with assistance in eating and drinking 3. To reduce unplanned weight loss 4. To reduce incidence of dehydration	
	D. Requirements to become a Feeding Assistant 1. Must complete a state-approved minimum 8-hour training course 2. Course must include content on: 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 abdominal thrusts (also known as the Heimlich maneuver) f. Infection prevention g. Resident rights h. Recognizing changes in residents that are inconsistent with their normal behavior and the importance of reporting those changes to the supervisory nurse	List the course requirements to become a Feeding Assistant

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	E. Important Points to Remember 1. The Feeding Assistant does not give nursing care 2. Feeding Assistants should only perform those tasks for which they have been trained 3. Nurse aide or licensed personnel feed the more complicated residents 4. Feeding Assistants should only feed residents selected by charge nurse	
	II. The Role of Facilities Using Feeding Assistants	
2.0 Examine the role of facilities using Feeding Assistants	A. Supervision of the Feeding Assistant 1. Must work under the supervision of a registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN) 2. In an emergency, the Feeding Assistant must call the supervisory nurse for help using the resident call system.	
	B. Choosing Residents for the Feeding Assistant 1. The facility must ensure that only residents who have no complicated feeding problems are selected for feeding 2. Complicated feeding problems include, but are not limited to: a. difficulty swallowing b. recurrent lung aspirations c. tube or parenteral/IV feedings 3. Resident selection based on the charge nurse's assessment and resident's latest assessment and plan of care.	Describe three feeding problems that a resident might have that would not allow feeding by a Feeding Assistant

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	C. Maintenance of Records 1. Facilities must maintain a record of individuals used by the facility who have successfully completed the training for a feeding assistant 2. Feeding Assistant a. an individual who meets the requirements in the federal regulations and b. an individual who is paid to feed residents by a facility or c. an individual who is used under an arrangement with another agency or organization 3. Feeding Assistants should keep copy of record of successful completion for their records	List three facility responsibilities when using Feeding Assistants