

Prescribed Therapeutic Diets

908.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that inmates who require prescribed therapeutic diets as a result of a diagnosed medical condition are provided with nutritionally balanced therapeutic meals that are medically approved and meet nutritional and safety standards.

908.2 POLICY

The Responsible Physician, in consultation with the food services manager, shall:

- (a) Develop written procedures that identify individuals who are authorized to prescribe a therapeutic diet.
- (b) The therapeutic diets utilized by this facility shall be planned, prepared and served with consultation from a registered dietitian.
- (c) The Jail Commander shall comply with any therapeutic diet prescribed for an inmate.
- (d) The Jail Commander and the Responsible Physician shall ensure that the diet manual, which includes sample menus of therapeutic diets, shall be available to both health services and food services workers. A registered dietitian shall review, and the Responsible Physician shall approve, the diet manual on an annual basis.

As a best practice, all therapeutic diet prescriptions should be reviewed and rewritten, if appropriate, on a quarterly basis. This is to reduce the risk of an inmate developing an adverse medical condition or nutritional effect as the result of a diet that is inconsistent with the inmate's current medical needs. A diet request form should be made available to inmates.

Pregnant or lactating women shall be provided a balanced, nutritious diet approved for pregnant women by a physician (Wis. Admin. Code DOC § 350.11(9); Wis. Admin. Code DOC § 350.15(11)).

908.3 STAFF COMMUNICATION/COORDINATION

It is the responsibility of the health authority to compile a daily list of all inmates who are prescribed therapeutic diets. The list should contain the following information:

- (a) Inmate's name
- (b) Inmate's identification number
- (c) Housing location or dining location where the meals will be delivered
- (d) Inmate's therapeutic diet type
- (e) Special remarks or instructions

Any time inmates are assigned to a different housing area, correctional staff must notify the food services personnel immediately.

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908.4 PREPARATION AND DELIVERY OF MEALS

The food services manager or the authorized designee is responsible for reviewing the therapeutic diet lists prepared by the Responsible Physician, counting the number and type of therapeutic meals to be served and preparing the food according to the therapeutic menu designed by the registered dietitian.

Therapeutic diets may include snacks and oral supplements. Snacks and supplements should be distributed with regularly scheduled meal service or may be distributed with inmate medications. Individual labels or written documents containing the following information should be prepared by the kitchen, clearly identifying each meal and any included snacks:

- (a) Inmate's name
- (b) Inmate's identification number
- (c) Housing location or dining location where the meals will be delivered
- (d) Inmate's therapeutic diet type

The custody staff responsible for meal distribution shall ensure that any inmate who has been prescribed a therapeutic meal by the Responsible Physician or the authorized designee receives the prescribed therapeutic meal.

Unless a therapeutic diet was prescribed with a specific end date, only the Responsible Physician or the authorized designee may order that a therapeutic diet be discontinued.

Inmates who are receiving therapeutic diets must receive clearance from the Responsible Physician before he/she may receive a religious or disciplinary diet.

If prescribed by the Responsible Physician, supplemental food shall be served to inmates more frequently than the regularly scheduled meals. An inmate who misses a regularly scheduled meal shall receive his/her prescribed meal.