

HEALTH SERVICES POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL

North Carolina Department Of Correction
Division Of Prisons

SECTION: Care and Treatment of Patient -
Restrictive Procedures

POLICY # TX III-5

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SUBJECT: Assessment and care of patient on special
management meals

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 2008
SUPERCEDES DATE: September 2007

Reference: ACA Standard 4th Edition 4-4320

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines to insure proper assessment and care of patient on special management meal.

POLICY

Inmates will be appropriately assessed by facility's health authority/ designee (in consultation with unit provider if needed) prior to initiation and during implementation of Nutraloaf special management meal.

PROCEDURE

I. Notification of Medical Staff.

Custody Unit Manager or Officer in Charge will notify Medical immediately upon determination to place inmate on special management meal.

II. Medical Staff Involvement

- a. Medical staff will provide a thorough chart review to determine if inmate has any special medical reason prohibiting safe use of special management meal for up to seven (7) days. After the seven (7) day period the inmate is to receive at least one day of regular meals.
- b. If the inmate is on a special therapeutic diet, the responsible Unit Provider **must** determine whether or not the special management meal is appropriate. Documentation of reasons for appropriateness or inappropriateness will be made in inmate's health record and on OPUS Special Management Meal report, at each initiation of special management meal.
- c. If the inmate is not on a therapeutic diet, then a medical provider or nurse may be the approving medical authority.
- d. Medical staff making medical determination will also review the inmate's mental health grade and if listed as 3 or greater, must notify the facility's psychological staff that the inmate is subject to being placed on the special management meal diet.
- e. Psychological staff will make a clinical determination on individual inmate's case as to how frequently psychological follow-up will occur during special management meal diet.
- f. Baseline vital signs, including weight will be obtained prior to initiation of the special management diet and will be documented in the Progress Notes.
- g. If the patient refuses to allow medical staff to obtain vital signs and weight:
 - 1) Notify Unit Provider of patient refusal.
 - 2) Nurse to explain reasons for weight and vital signs to patient and document.
 - 3) Have patient sign DC-442 (Refusal of Treatment).
 - 4) Nurse is to continue on daily basis to attempt vital signs and weight and reeducate patient
 - 5) Document in progress note each attempt during 7 days.
- h. The medical authority will forward their recommendation on the OPUS form, as soon as possible, to the Unit Manager/Officer -in- charge.

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- i. The special management meal screens will be IS70 & IS&71. To access a particular inmates type IS70 0 OPUS #. This screen displays the inmate's history of special meals. Type I to inquire and display the IS71 screen. Change the transaction type to "4" to allow entry of medical comments and approval (IS70 4 OPUS #).
 - j. Segregation checks will occur according to Health Services Policy (A-5) at least 3 times per week by the registered nurse or medical provider .A patient may be removed from special management meal for medical reasons at any time determined by facility's health authority (in consultation with unit provider if needed). Documentation of segregation checks and assessments will be placed in inmate's medical record.
 - k. A medical staff member will visit/assess patient to determine whether there is a medical reason not to place the inmate on special management meal for an additional seven (7) day period prior to the beginning of the additional seven (7) day period. This visit/assessment will include, but is not limited to vital signs and weight. This assessment will be documented in patient's medical record
 - l. If it is determined patient needs to be removed from the special management meal, for documented medical reasons, the Unit Manager/Officer-In-Charge shall be notified immediately. Document on the OPUS form and patient shall be removed from that status.
 - m. Medical staff will follow up with custody to insure patient has been removed from special management diet.

III. Hunger Strike on Special Management Diet.

If the patient continually refuses the special management meal, monitor according to Health Services Policy (TX VI-3), Care of the Patient Refusing to Eat.

IV. Patient Transfer

If the patient is transferred to another facility during this time of special management meal, the diet will be documented on the Transfer Form DC387-A.



10/6/08

Paula Smith MD, Director of Health Services Date

SOR: Standards Director