



Georgia Department of Public Health Dietetic Internship

Acute Care Clinical Rotation Description

In the acute care setting, interns will provide nutritional care to a population living with a wide variety of conditions, which may include obesity, HIV/AIDS, cancer, and diseases of the cardiovascular, neurologic, hepatic, gastrointestinal, hematologic, endocrine, pulmonary, and immune systems. Interns will apply their medical nutrition therapy knowledge and skills of the Nutrition Care Process by reading and interpreting computerized medical records, screening and assessing patients, diagnosing nutritional problems, using the nutrition care process, planning and implementing nutrition interventions, establishing goals, monitoring and evaluating patients' progress toward nutritional goals, conducting meal rounds, providing nutrition education to patients and/or caregivers, and arranging for follow-up nutritional care as needed. Interns will review patients' current and past medications, identify potential drug-nutrient interactions, and provide food-drug education as needed. Interns will select and implement tube feeding formula for patients requiring enteral nutrition support, monitor tolerance, and assist with transition to long-term feeding regimen. The interns presence in the patient-care areas and attendance at interdisciplinary rounds will allow interaction and collaboration with a variety of professionals (e.g., Physicians, Nurses, Social Workers, Pharmacists, Physical Therapists, Speech-Language Pathologists) to discuss patient treatment and discharge planning.

Before the rotation:

1. Contact clinical preceptor two weeks before the start of the rotation to arrange the clinical rotation schedule
2. Complete the pre-rotation clinical modules

Length of rotation: Varies – depends on clinical placements as the intern may have other clinical rotations such as pediatrics, diabetes, bariatric, long term care, etc.

Standard hours: TBD by rotation preceptor

Expectations:

1. Interns have completed all clinical pre rotation modules entirely before the first day of the clinical rotation
2. Interns will meet with preceptor on the first day of rotation to discuss the preceptor/intern task list and pre rotation clinical modules
3. Interns will abide by all internship policies

Resources needed for rotation:

1. Calculator and black ink pen
2. Food Medication Interaction Handbook, Nutrition Assessment Pocket Guide and Nutrition Care Process Pocket Guide, Nutrition and Diagnosis Related Care Textbook, Nutrition Diagnosis and Intervention: Standardized Language for the Nutrition Care Process, Nutrition Therapy & Pathophysiology, 2nd edition
3. Completed pre-rotation clinical module
4. Computer and internet access
5. Transportation





Activities and Assignments

1. Research an emerging dietetics issue
2. Develop, adapt, and/or review educational materials
3. Perform NCP on a variety of patients including diabetes, overweight, obesity, cancer, cardiovascular disease, gastrointestinal disorders, respiratory, enteral/parenteral feeding etc.) in a variety of population groups (men, women, geriatric, adult, etc. as available)
4. Plan and present nutrition education appropriately to a variety of clients with differing disease states one on one and in group settings
5. Participate in interdisciplinary meetings
6. Complete a case study
7. Conduct a clinical quality improvement study
8. Provide staff relief toward the end of the rotation

Learning Objectives:

1. The intern will be able to utilize technology to access credible scientific sources to research nutrition related question and apply evidence-based guidelines
2. The intern will be able to appropriately develop or adapt credible educational materials based on the needs of a target audience
3. The intern will be able to appropriately complete nutrition assessments, distinguish nutrition diagnoses, plan nutrition interventions and identify parameters to monitor intervention success
4. The intern will be able to use motivational interviewing techniques to effectively counsel, educate and facilitate behavior change of target audience
5. Intern will be able to confidently and effectively work as part of an interdisciplinary care team to provide high quality patient care
6. The intern will be able to work independently and competently in the role of an RD
7. The intern will be able to conduct quality monitoring activities, analyze results and make recommendations for improvement.

Competencies:

1. CRD 1.1: Select indicators of program quality and/or customer service and measure achievement objectives
2. CRD 1.2: Apply evidence-based guidelines, systematic reviews and scientific literature (such as the Academy's Evidence Analysis Library and Evidence-based Nutrition Practice Guidelines, the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, National Guideline Clearinghouse Web sites) in the nutrition care process and model and other areas of dietetics practice
3. CRD 1.3: Justify programs, products, services and care using appropriate evidence or data
4. CRD 1.4: Evaluate emerging research for application in dietetics practice
5. CRD 1.5: Conduct projects using appropriate research methods, ethical procedures, and data analysis



6. CRD 2.1: Practice in compliance with current federal regulations and state statutes and rules, as applicable and in accordance with accreditation standards and the Scope of Dietetics Practice and Code of Ethics for the Profession of Dietetics
7. CRD 2.2: Demonstrate professional writing skills in preparing professional communications
8. CRD 2.3: Design, implement, and evaluate presentations to a target audience
9. CRD 2.4: Use effective education and counseling skills to facilitate behavior change
10. CRD 2.5: Demonstrate active participation, teamwork, and contributions in group settings
11. CRD 2.6: Assign patient care activities to DTRs and support personnel as appropriate
12. CRD 2.7: Refer clients and patients to other professionals and services when needs are beyond individual scope of practice
13. CRD 2.8: Apply leadership skills to achieve desired outcomes
14. CRD 2.10: Establish collaborative relationships with other health professionals and support personnel to deliver effective nutrition services
15. CRD 2.11: Demonstrate professional attributes within various organizational cultures
16. CRD 2.13: Demonstrate negotiation skills
17. CRD 3.1: Perform the Nutrition Care Process (a through e below) and use standardized nutrition language for individuals, groups and populations of differing ages and health status, in a variety of settings
 - a. Assess the nutritional status of individuals, groups, and populations in a variety of settings where nutrition care is or can be delivered
 - b. Diagnose nutrition problems and create problem, etiology, signs and symptoms (PES) statements
 - c. Plan and implement nutrition interventions to include prioritizing the nutrition diagnosis
 - d. Monitor and evaluate problems, etiologies, signs, symptoms, and the impact of interventions on the nutrition diagnosis
 - e. Complete documentation that follows professional guidelines, guidelines required by the health care systems and guidelines required by the practice setting
18. CRD 3.2: Demonstrate effective communication skills for clinical and customer services in a variety of formats
19. CRD 3.3: Develop and deliver products, programs or services that promote consumer health, wellness, and lifestyle management
20. CRD 3.4: Deliver respectful, science-based answers to consumer questions concerning emerging health trends
21. CRD 4.4: Conduct clinical and customer service quality management activities
22. CRD 4.5: Use current informatics technology to develop, store, retrieve and disseminate information and data
23. CRD 4.6: Analyze quality, financial, or productivity data and develop a plan for intervention

Evaluation:

1. Interns will be evaluated by the clinical preceptor mid-way through the rotation using the GDPH DI midpoint evaluation form.
2. Intern activities and assignments will be evaluated by the preceptor using activity specific grading rubrics or grading definitions included in final evaluation form.
3. Interns will be given a final evaluation at the end of the rotation using the GDPH DI final evaluation form. The final evaluation form will include grades from all activities/assignments as well as a review of professionalism parameters

After the rotation:

- a. Signed and dated rotation orientation check list
- b. Completed signed and dated rotation goals and reflections form
- c. Documentation from all activities and assignments
- d. All signed and dated activity logs for the entire rotation
- e. Completed, signed and dated rotation hours summary form
- f. Completed and signed rotation final evaluation form