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August 1, 2008

MEMORANDUM

To: Administrators, Hospitals and Nursing Homes

From: Dennis L. Gibbs, Director
Division of Health Licensing

Subject: Conditions Allowing a Temporary Provider-wide Exception to the Requirements of Section 803 of Regulation 61-16, Standards for Licensing Hospitals and Institutional General Infirmaries, and Section 1405.C of Regulation 61-17, Standards for Licensing Nursing Homes

Standards established in South Carolina regulations require hospitals and nursing homes to have the facility dietary services under the direction of a dietitian or qualified food service supervisor. Regulation 61-16, Section 803 requires that the qualified food service supervisor, "1. Is a graduate of a dietetic technician or dietetic assistant training program approved by the American Dietetic Association; or 2. Is a graduate of a State-approved course; or 3. Has training and experience in food service supervision and management equivalent in content to the programs in paragraph 1 or 2 above." Regulation 61-17, Section 1405.C requires that the qualified food service supervisor, "1. Is a graduate of a dietetic technician training program approved by the American Dietetic Association; or 2. Is a graduate of a course of study meeting the requirements of the American Dietetic Association and approved by the state; or 3. Has at least three (3) years of training and experience in meal service supervision and management in a military service equivalent in content to the programs described in Sections 1405.C.1 and C.2."

In consideration of the Department's commitment to establishing standards that do not compromise the health, safety, and well-being of the patients and/or residents, the Department has determined that it is appropriate at this time to provide for a temporary exception to the above standards to allow an individual that has training with the Dietary Managers Association to be considered as a qualified food service supervisor in hospitals and nursing homes. Therefore, a temporary alternative standard effective for a two (2) year period will be acceptable.

All hospitals and nursing homes will be required to meet the standards outlined in each respective regulation, *i.e.*, R.61-16, Section 803, and R.61-17, Section 1405.C, or, as an alternative, the qualified food service supervisor shall meet any one of the following options:

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Temporary Provider-Wide Exception – Qualified Food Service Supervisor

1. Is a graduate of a dietetic technician training program approved by the American Dietetic Association; or
2. Is a graduate of a course of study meeting the requirements of the American Dietetic Association and approved by the state; or
3. Is certified by the Certifying Board for Dietary Managers of the Dietary Managers Association and maintains that credential through forty-five hours of Dietary Managers Association approved continuing education every three years; or
4. Must have completed a Dietary Managers Association approved course curriculum necessary to take the certification examination required to become a certified dietary manager; or
5. Has at least three (3) years of training and experience in meal service supervision and management in a military service equivalent in content to the programs described in paragraph 1, 2, or 3 above.

If the individual serving as your food service supervisor is qualified to hold that position by meeting either #3 or #4 above, it is required that you submit to the Department the name of that individual and the date he/she was hired and the date no longer employed. This information is necessary in order to evaluate the effectiveness of those food service supervisors qualifying for their position by meeting either #3 or #4 above during this temporary period. After, a review of the effectiveness, the Department may elect to extend this exception to a permanent status, and would issue a memorandum to all providers confirming the decision to extend.

This temporary exception is effective through August 1, 2010, and applies to any hospital or nursing home licensed by the Department. It relates solely to South Carolina licensing standards. Any adverse condition(s) that may be related to this exception may result in revocation of the exception by the Department.

If there are any questions, you may call Randy Clark at 545-4230.

DLG/rel

cc: Pam Dukes, DHEC
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