



Wyoming State Board of Nursing

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OPINION: PAID FEEDING ASSISTANT

APPROVED DATE: July 2004

REVIEWED DATE: July 2016

REVISED DATE: July 2014

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:

Practice & Education Committee

An advisory opinion adopted by WSBN is an interpretation of what the law requires. While an advisory opinion is not law, it is more than a recommendation. In other words, an advisory opinion is an official opinion of WSBN regarding the practice of nursing as it relates to the functions of nursing. Facility policies may restrict practice further in their setting and/or require additional expectations related to competency, validation, training and supervision to assure the safety of their patient population and/or decrease risk.

Within the Scope of Practice/Role of _X_ APRN _X_ RN _X_ LPN _CNA

**ADVISORY OPINION
PAID FEEDING ASSISTANT**

In accordance with Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 33-21-122(c)(iii) of the Wyoming Nursing Practice Act (NPA), the Wyoming State Board of Nursing (WSBN) has approved the following Advisory Opinion on Paid Feeding Assistant.

The RN or LPN may supervise a paid feeding assistant providing the following criteria are met:

- 1. The nurse shall follow the delegation model as prescribed in *Rules Wyo. Dept. of Admin. & Info., Bd. of Nursing, Ch. 9, § 2 (Dec. 2013)*;**
- 2. The resident has no complicated feeding problems as defined by CFR 42 §483.35 (h)(3); and**
- 3. The feeding assistant must successfully complete a standardized training program for paid feeding assistant approved by the Wyoming Department of Health that meets 42 CFR § 483.160(a) and that includes content that the paid feeding assistant is under the supervision of the licensed nurse.**

42 CFR § 488.301 defines a paid feeding assistant as “an individual who meets the requirements specified in § 485.35(h)(2) and who is paid to feed residents by a facility, or who is used under an arrangement with another agency or organization.”

42 CFR § 483.35(h) outlines the following:

(1) State approved training course. A facility must use a paid feeding assistant, as defined in § 488.031 of this chapter, if –

(i) The feeding assistant has successfully completed a State-approved training course that meets the requirements of § 483.160 before feeding residents; and

(ii) The use of feeding assistant is consistent with State law.

(2) Supervision.

(i) A feeding assistant must work under the supervision of a registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN).

(ii) In an emergency, a feeding assistant must call a supervisory nurse for help on the resident call system.

(3) Resident selection criteria.

(i) A facility must ensure that a feeding assistant feeds only residents who have no complicated feeding problems.

(ii) Complicated feeding problems include, but are not limited to, difficulty swallowing, recurrent lung aspirations, and tube or parenteral/IV feedings.

(iii) The facility must base resident selection on the charge nurse's assessment and the resident's latest assessment and plan of care.