POLICY STATEMENT:

The Department shall ensure that the nutritional needs of those prisoners whose health condition necessitates alteration from the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) Statewide Standard Menu shall be met.

POLICY:

DEFINITIONS

A. MEDICAL NUTRITIONAL THERAPY: Any and all evaluative, counseling, or nutritional therapeutic services provided by a registered dietitian for management or treatment of a disease, condition, disorder or illness.

B. MEDICAL PROVIDER (MP): A qualified health professional who is a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner in the State of Michigan.

C. QUALIFIED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL (QHP): A health care professional licensed and registered/certified by the State of Michigan to practice within the scope of his/her training.

D. THERAPEUTIC DIET: A modified diet plan prescribed by the MP or dentist for a prisoner whose nutritional needs cannot be adequately met from the MDOC Statewide Standard Menu.

GENERAL INFORMATION

E. Therapeutic diets shall not be ordered or modified to accommodate personal preferences.

F. The Administrator of the Bureau of Health Care Services (BHCS) or designee shall maintain a Diet Manual identifying criteria for prescribing and providing therapeutic diets, specific to the MDOC needs. The MDOC diet manual is researched and written by the BHCS Registered Dietitians. This manual provides a guideline for circumstances under which therapeutic diets are to be ordered and medical nutritional services are to be provided.

G. To comply with existing standards of health care, all therapeutic diets shall be ordered by the MP or dentist based on guidelines set forth in the MDOC Diet Manual. The menus for therapeutic diets will be written by BHCS Registered Dietitians in accordance with the MDOC Diet Manual. Therapeutic diet orders will be reviewed by BHCS Registered Dietitians to ensure appropriateness and make recommendations based on the guidelines of the MDOC Diet Manual. All therapeutic diets will be served as prescribed in the Prisoner Health Record (PHR) by the MP or dentist and in accordance with the MDOC Diet Manual and PD 04.07.100 “Offender Meals and Food Quality Assurance.”

H. Whenever a therapeutic diet has been ordered, Health Care staff shall implement the diet by completing a medical detail pursuant to PD 04.06.160 “Medical Details and Special Accommodation Notices.” Medical details for therapeutic diets shall be specific and complete using diet order terminology as specified by the MDOC Diet Manual, and shall include an expiration date. Medical details shall not be valid for more than six months, and shall be reviewed by the BHCS Registered Dietician who shall make a recommendation via chart review to the MP, dentist or designee prior to renewal. The Special Accommodation Notice shall not be used for diet orders as diet orders are limited to six months. Food service will be notified by copy of the medical detail at the same time notice is delivered to the prisoner and designated staff. Food service staff shall implement routine therapeutic diets within two business days after receipt of the medical detail. If a new therapeutic diet menu needs to be written by the BHCS Registered Dietitian for the diet order on the medical detail, the therapeutic diet shall be implemented by Food Service within one business day after receiving the newly written diet menu from the BHCS.
I. Therapeutic diets shall be available to prisoners in MDOC operated facilities as prescribed by the MP or dentist and as designated on the onsite health care services grid. Prior to scheduling a prisoner to transfer in accordance with PD 05.01.140 “Prisoner Placement and Transfer,” facility staff at the sending facility shall review the BHCS onsite health care services grid to ensure that the prescribed diet is available at the receiving facility.

J. Prisoners that do not need a therapeutic diet but require education on self-selecting to meet their health needs shall be provided proper training by a BHCS Registered Dietitian. Prisoners who are housed in segregation or are receiving delivered meals and can no longer self-select from the Statewide Standard Menu may utilize the MDOC Standard Meal Choice form (CSJ-561) so that their health needs can be met.

K. Prisoners receiving therapeutic diet meals must eat from the therapeutic diet meal line unless authorized by appropriate BHCS staff. A prisoner who misses 20 percent or more of his/her prescribed therapeutic diet meals over a 30 day period shall be referred by the facility Food Service Director or designee to the appropriate BHCS Registered Dietitian for review.

L. In the event a food substitution is necessary, all changes or substitutions to therapeutic diets shall be made using the approved substitution list and/or consultation with a BHCS Registered Dietitian and shall be documented on the Menu Change form (CAH-108).

M. Menu options such as vegetarian, pork-free or other dietary variances that are requested for religious or personal (non-medical) reasons are not therapeutic diets and should not be ordered as such.

NUTRITIONAL SERVICES

N. Medical nutritional therapy shall be performed by the BHCS Registered Dietitians. If a BHCS Registered Dietitian is not available at the facility and a dietary consult is necessary, provisions should be made to provide a BHCS Registered Dietitian consult utilizing teleconferencing whenever possible. The BHCS Registered Dietitian shall document nutritional intervention and any prisoner contacts in the PHR.

THERAPEUTIC MEAL PREPARATION AND SERVICE

O. Therapeutic diet preparation, menu heading and reproduction, and the service of meals are the responsibility of Food Service within each institution.

P. All therapeutic diets shall be prepared and served according to the therapeutic diet menus as written by BHCS Registered Dietitians. The menus shall conform as closely as possible to the Statewide Standard Menu.

Q. Whenever a special event menu is served, a BHCS Registered Dietitian shall ensure that prisoners on therapeutic diets are provided guidelines for self-selecting from the special event menu or requesting their therapeutic diet tray for that meal. Prisoners whose nutritional needs cannot be accommodated by the special event menu as evaluated by the BHCS Registered Dietitian will receive a modified therapeutic special event menu.

R. Between meal nourishments (e.g., snacks or supplements) shall be offered to prisoners when medically necessary or upon evaluation from the BHCS Registered Dietitian in accordance with the MDOC Diet Manual.

S. All therapeutic diets, unless otherwise indicated in the MDOC Diet Manual, will be nutritionally adequate. Adequacy will be based on the standards outlined in Policy Directive 04.07.100 "Offender Meals and Food Quality Assurance." When food loaves or finger foods are ordered for a prisoner on a therapeutic diet, foods served to those prisoners must meet requirements for their prescribed therapeutic diets. Menus for these diets must be written or approved by a BHCS Registered Dietitian.

T. Prisoners who are self-selecting on the regular meal line shall not be given medical details, special...
accommodations or diet orders that modify their regular meal tray. If the prisoner’s medical nutritional needs cannot be met on the Statewide Standard Menu, the prisoner shall be referred to the BHCS Registered Dietitian for further evaluation by a QHP.

PROCEDURE

U. The BHCS Administrator shall ensure that procedures are developed as necessary to implement requirements set forth in this policy directive within 60 calendar days after the effective date.

AUDIT ELEMENTS

V. A Primary Audit Elements List has been developed and is available on the Department’s Document Access System to assist with self-audit of this policy pursuant to PD 01.05.100 "Self-Audits and Performance Audits."

APPROVED: HEW 07/17/2018