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**FISCAL YEAR 2015
CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM
OPERATIONAL MEMORANDUM #20**

TO: Child and Adult Care Food Program Institutions

FROM: Marla J. Moss, Director
Office of School Support Services

DATE: April 24, 2015

**SUBJECT: Statements Supporting Accommodations for Children
with Disabilities in Child Nutrition Programs**

The purpose of this memorandum is to expand the list of acceptable medical professionals that may sign a medical statement for meal accommodations in the Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) and recommend alternate foods for children whose disability restricts their diets. A broader list of medical providers will improve access to meal accommodations for children with special dietary needs while balancing the administrative burden placed on program operators and participants requesting meal accommodations.

Current regulations and guidance require program operators to provide reasonable accommodations for children whose disability restricts their diet for all meals and snacks when supported by a medical statement signed by a licensed physician. However, in many states, laws permit specific state-recognized medical professionals to treat patients and write medical prescriptions. With this in mind, Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) has determined that along with licensed physicians and at the discretion of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), it is reasonable to also permit other recognized medical authorities to complete and sign a medical statement for meal accommodations in the CNP and recommend alternate foods for children whose disability restricts their diet. A state-recognized medical authority for this purpose is a state-licensed health care professional who is authorized to write medical prescriptions under state law. In Michigan, this includes medical doctors, doctors of osteopathy, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners. This update is effective immediately.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact the Child and Adult Care Food Program at 517-373-7391.

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