

Enfield Community Services

JOB DESCRIPTION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Job Title:	Community Specialist Dietitian (Fixed term maternity Cover 12 months)
Band:	Band 6
Hours:	37.5 per week
Department:	Nutrition and Dietetics
Location and mobility:	Community Therapies, St. Michael's, Enfield
Responsible to:	Nutrition and Dietetics Manager and supervised by Band 7 Dietitian
Accountable to:	Nutrition and Dietetics Manager
RBAC CODE / URL:	TBA
CRB checks:	DBS - enhanced

Note: DBS checks are required for any staff that have regular contact with patients in the course of their normal duties.

THIS JOB DESCRIPTION IS DEEMED CURRENT: January 2024

JOB SUMMARY

Job Purpose

As part of the Dietetic Service providing care to a multi cultural and diverse population, to deliver a high standard of service to adult patients in primary care services.

Key roles are:

To provide a specialist community dietetic service providing patient centred, therapy led nutrition support to adults resident in Enfield in Care Homes and patient's home and clinics.

To provide a community dietetic service to patients requiring oral nutrition support at home.

To contribute to the primary care dietetic service provision in outpatient clinics and group activities

To supervise the dietetic assistants when required.

Job Statement

To perform comprehensive dietetic assessment of patients with diverse presentations and complex physical and psychological conditions.

As part of the MDT to develop and deliver individualised and group treatment programmes.

To undertake all aspects of clinical duties as an autonomous practitioner, holding the responsibility for own caseload of specialist and complex patients.

To undergo supervision and development support in the form of regular individual and team supervision sessions as part of the wider dietetic team.

To undertake evidence-based audit and or research projects to further own and team's clinical practice with support and guidance from more senior staff. Make recommendations to clinical lead/manager of service for changes to practice by the team. May contribute to the implementation of specific changes to practice or contribute to service protocols.

To be aware of and to highlight to the line manager any clinical governance issues pertaining to the role and practice.

To contribute to the delivery of health promotion activities within the service and wider Trust initiatives

MAIN TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Specific Duties and Responsibilities

Clinical

1. To be professionally and legally accountable for all aspects of own work and that work delegated to support staff.
2. To undertake a comprehensive assessment of patients using a high level of clinical reasoning and assessment techniques (including anthropometrical measurement) utilising clinical information available from other sources and requesting additional clinical tests as appropriate
3. To utilise an extensive knowledge of evidence based practice and treatment options to select and deliver specialised dietetic packages of care
4. To utilise high level counselling and interpersonal skills with patients frequently hostile or ambivalent in order to deal with emotional barriers to dietary change, challenging inappropriate cognitions around food and motivating them to change their dietary habits
5. To ensure that patients and carers are involved in the planning of their care packages, using negotiation skills as appropriate and providing support to patients who may be highly distressed or confused in relation to their dietary care plan
6. To assess patient understanding of treatment proposals, gain valid informed consent and have the capacity to work within a legal framework with patients who lack capacity to consent to treatment.
7. Use a range of verbal and non-verbal communication tools to communicate effectively with patients and carers as well as providing personalised written information to patients and others involved in their care
8. To monitor and adjust individual treatment plans on an on-going basis as required
9. To be responsible for maintaining accurate comprehensive patient treatment records in line with the British Dietetic Association /HPC standards of practice and ECS/BEHMHT policies and to communicate assessment and treatment results to the appropriate disciplines in the form of reports and letters.
10. Represent dietetic service service and/or individual patients at multi-disciplinary team meetings, to ensure delivery of a co-ordinated multidisciplinary service, and integrate dietetic treatment into the treatment programme. This will include discussion of patient care, patient progress and involvement in discharge planning.

11. Provide specialist dietetic advice to others regarding the management and care of patients.
12. To prepare and deliver group education sessions for patients
13. To use relevant clinical outcome measures to demonstrate efficacy of intervention.
14. Apply a sound knowledge of clinical governance and risk management both to own caseload and that delegated to other staff.

Professional

1. To be responsible for maintaining own competency to practice through relevant CPD activities and maintain a CPD portfolio which reflects personal development.
2. To implement knowledge of evidence based practice, developing a more specialist dietetic knowledge of particular conditions and patient types' applying critical appraisal skills to emerging evidence and research to develop and evaluate own practice and disseminate own learning to others
3. Where appropriate to be responsible for supervising student dietitians or dietetic support workers under the overall supervision and direction of more senior staff.
4. Participate in the staff appraisal scheme as an appraisee and be responsible for complying with agreed personal development programmes to meet individual and service objectives.
4. Where appropriate, to undertake the appraisal of assistant and TI staff.
6. Undertake measurement and evaluation of own work and current practices through the use of evidence based practice projects, audit and outcome measures, either individually or as part of a team with more senior clinicians.
7. Be an active member of the in-service training programme, attending tutorials, individual training sessions, external courses and peer review sessions as appropriate and as identified in own PDP.
8. Be actively involved in relevant professional clinical groups, Dietetic Clinical Interest Groups, Peer Review Groups and other professional development activities such as journal clubs.

9. To be responsible for the implementation of any National, Service and Organisational policies and guidance that apply to own role or area of work

Organisational

1. To be responsible for organising and planning own clinical caseload to meet service and patient priorities. Readjusting plans as situations change/arise.
2. To optimise the overall effective and efficient use of clinical and organisational skills and resources to ensure that you are highly responsive to clinical and local service priorities and needs.
3. To undertake the accurate collection of data for use in service reporting, audit and for monitoring the Service level agreement. In particular to complete RiO/other patient based system data in a timely fashion, fully complying with data quality requirements.
4. To keep patient and other confidential data secure in line with Trust policy.
5. Be responsible for the safe and competent use of equipment, through teaching and supervision of practice.
6. Deputise for more senior dietetic staff in their absence allocating and organising the work of more junior staff and assistant staff to meet service priorities on a daily basis.
7. To communicate regularly and effectively with other members of the dietetic service in order to ensure seamless provision of dietetic support to patients moving between different areas of the service.
8. To be aware of Health and Safety aspects of own work and implement any policies, which may be required to improve the safety of own work area, including your prompt recording and reporting of accidents to senior staff, and ensuring that equipment use is safe.
9. To be aware of and support any Dietetic Service plans.
10. To comply with the organisational and departmental policies and procedures and to be involved in the reviewing and updating as appropriate.
11. To attend mandatory training and keep up date in line with organisational requirements
12. To undertake any other duties that might be considered appropriate by the Service manager

Effort

1. Carry out assessments and treatments of patients with moderate physical and significant mental and emotional effort on a daily basis.
2. To manage the pressure resulting from frequent interruptions and requests from other professionals that require thoughtful, timely and decisive action and which necessitate adjustment and re-prioritisation of the work plan for self and team.
3. On a daily basis to implement decisions on allocation of limited resources which directly affect level of therapy intervention to specific patients and have to justify those decisions to patients, carers and others.
4. To undertake manual handling in compliance with Trust manual handling policies and local guidance at all times.
5. To deal sensitively with patients and carers who have high levels of anxiety and aggression
6. To interact with patients through an interpreter when English is not the patient's first language
7. When working in a community setting, to work as lone practitioner with telephone support from a more senior therapist as required.
8. The job involves the potential for regular exposure to verbal and physical aggression.

This job description is intended as a basic guide to the responsibilities of the post and is not exhaustive. The post holder may be asked to undertake duties that are in line with the level of role.

The job description will be subject to regular review and amendment as necessary in consultation with the post holder.
