

## Job Description

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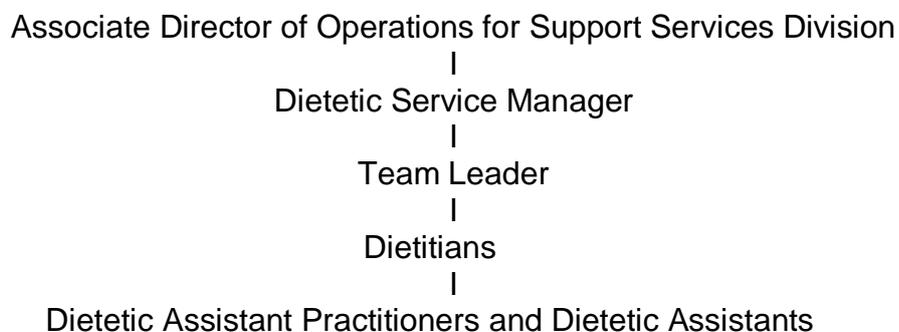
<b>Job Title:</b>	Specialist Dietitian
<b>Grade:</b>	Band 6
<b>Reports To:</b>	Team Leader
<b>Accountable To:</b>	Dietetic Service Manager

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### Job Purpose:

- To work as an autonomous practitioner to advise on the dietary management of patients on a specialist caseload.
  - With appropriate post graduate training assess, treat and manage own caseload of patients in the designated specialist area, with support as necessary from senior colleagues.
  - To promote the ethos of self-management and prevention to patients, staff and carers to prevent nutritional problems, medical conditions and complications.
  - Provide advice, training and support to other health & social care professionals.
  - Liaise with dietetic colleagues and other members of multidisciplinary teams as necessary e.g. medical, nursing, catering and other health and social professionals.
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### Organisation Chart:



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### Key Result Areas:

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## **Clinical**

- Be clinically competent to give specialist dietetic advice, treatment and dietary counselling to patients.
- Work autonomously to manage own caseload in a designated specialist area providing dietetic advice to patients, their carers and staff within agreed protocols / guidelines.
- Judge the appropriateness of referrals, action dietetic management and advise referring agents of inappropriate referrals.
- Analyse and interpret complex information from a variety of sources regarding individual patients, e.g. biochemistry, medication, clinical condition, anthropometric measurements.
- Undertake nutritional calculations e.g. calculating nutritional requirements, analysis of nutritional intakes using specialist IT systems.
- Develop and modify dietetic treatment and discharge plans referring to other specialists and agencies as appropriate.
- To recommend appropriate ACBS nutritional products, feeding equipment, changes to medication, diagnostic tests and procedures and monitor their use.
- Communicate complex nutrition and dietetic information in an understandable form to staff, clients and carer.
- Use negotiation, motivation and counselling skills including situations where there are barriers to understanding.
- Work in conjunction with medical, nursing and health & social care professional colleagues, attending ward rounds, case reviews and meetings as necessary to facilitate good communications to provide high quality patient care.
- Liaise and advise catering staff when necessary to ensure the appropriate provision of meals for patients.
- Plan, implement and evaluate group education sessions for patients as required.
- To liaise closely with referrers, GPs and other health professionals, and participate in multidisciplinary meetings or case reviews as appropriate.
- Produce timely reports to referring Health Care Professionals regarding patient care.
- Actively participate in the prevention and health promotion activities of the department.
- Work flexibly to provide a dietetic service which meets the needs of the clients in the designated specialist area.
- To identify opportunities to promote healthier lifestyles or more appropriate nutrition in the designated specialty, and, using innovative methods, develop initiatives to promote healthier nutrition in the area, and contribute to the development and delivery of guidelines and action plans.

## **Training and Education**

- Plan, organise and participate in the clinical supervision of student dietitians, including planning timetables and written assessments.
- Preceptor or mentor junior members of staff and dietetic students.
- Plan, implement and evaluate nutrition education & training for nurses, support workers, catering, social care, medical staff, patients & carers as required.

## **Professional**

- To actively participate in the forward planning of the department.
  - Ensure dietetic practice is up to date, evidence-based and / or based on best practice
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by participating in appropriate training and development activities.

- Ensure relevant training is attended to maintain competency re medical devices required within the job role.
- Actively participate and contribute to clinical supervision to ensure regular evaluation of practice through peer review.
- Actively participate in dietetic operational meetings, sharing knowledge, evaluating and improving service delivery.
- Actively participate / lead in the departments Clinical Governance programme including reviewing evidence / guidance, clinical and professional audits, research and reporting of clinical risks.
- Propose changes to own and departmental practices based on current evidence and best practice.
- To develop and update departmental clinical policies, guidelines and procedures relevant to relevant to designated specialist area.
- Evaluate patient information in view of current evidence and update or produce new information/diet sheets as required.
- To work as an autonomous practitioner working within the BDA Code of professional conduct and HCPC Standards of conduct, performance and Ethics and Standards of Proficiency (Dietitians).
- Plan, prioritise and organise own workload working jointly with other professionals and agencies and evaluate own practice.
- Monitor stock levels and ensure effective use is made of department / trust resources, equipment and prescribed nutritional products.
- Be responsible for maintaining patient records in line with trust and department standards and Data Protection Act requirements.
- Document patient activity data in accordance with trust and professional standards.
- Contribute to the development and maintenance of the profile of the Dietetic profession.

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### **General Items:**

To provide cover for colleagues during periods of leave and peak workloads.

To ensure that all Trust standards are maintained and monitored to improve the quality of care to all whom come into contact with services provided by South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust.

Every employee has a duty to take reasonable care of the health and safety of him/herself and of other persons who may be affected by his/her acts or omissions at work, and to co-operate with the South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust to ensure that statutory and Trust regulations are complied with.

To participate in appraisals and personal reviews and work to achieve agreed set objectives.

To participate in appropriate training and development activities.

To participate in team, professional and personal development activities and promote commitment to continuous development and improvement.

Ensure that all staff consciously review mistakes, complaints and incidents/near misses as well as successes to improve performance and the level of customer care.

All employees will have an organisational and individual responsibility towards safeguarding vulnerable adults, young people and children. Where employees are working with children, young people and families they have a responsibility to cooperate in national safeguarding policy around early intervention activities appropriate to improving health outcomes.

As a major provider of health care, South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust operate a Smoke Free Policy by providing a totally smoke free environment to help aid patients' recovery, promote health and wellbeing and minimize the risks of complications attributed to smoking tobacco and second hand smoke.

### **For Band 6 and above**

Ensure that the Trust Smoke Free Policy is adhered to and that staff, patients and visitors are signposted to smoking cessation services.

Identify any appropriate support or interventions for staff to support their wellbeing.

To abide by Infection Prevention and Control policies relevant to their area of work, and undertake the necessary level of training. This will be appraised through the KSF review process or other relevant professional review process.

To accept responsibility for the provision of effective infection prevention and control within the Trust in liaison with the Trust's Infection Control Team.

To act as a role model in applying good infection control practice and ensures compliance with all Infection Control policies.

To promote and demonstrate implementation of the Trust's Carbon Management strategy and policy, ensuring team members are fully aware of the policy and are contributing to this.

To promote and demonstrate commitment to implementing a safe culture throughout the Trust and to undertake all reasonably practical measures to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all staff, patients and visitors.

**This job description is subject to review at any time in consultation with the post holder.**