

POLICY OF STATE OF DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION	POLICY NUMBER 14.4	PAGE NUMBER 1 of 2
	RELATED ACA Standards ACA SECTION C 4-4316, 4-4317, 4-4318, 4-4320, NCCHC SECTION P-F-02	
CHAPTER: 14	SUBJECT: THERAPEUTIC MEAL ORDERING AND APPROVAL	
APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER:  9/5/14		
EFFECTIVE DATE:		
APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE		

I. AUTHORITY: 11. *Del. C. 6517, 29 Del. C. 8903*

II. PURPOSE: To establish a policy for the Delaware Department of Correction (DDOC) Food Service (FS) unit regarding the ordering and approval of therapeutic diets.

III. APPLICABILITY: All DDOC employees and applicable medical contract employees.

IV. DEFINITIONS:

- A. **Therapeutic diet**—A special diet ordered by a licensed medical provider for temporary or permanent health conditions that restrict the types, portion, and/or amounts of food. Therapeutic diets are not to include diets ordered for religious, cultural, or security reasons.
- B. **Menu Planning Committee (MPC)**—A group consisting of the contract Dietitian, the Correctional Food Service Administrator, Food Service Quality Control Administrator, and Food Service Regional Directors, who meet semi-annually to review and approve all menus. Input from lower level staff and offenders shall be considered during meetings.

V. POLICY: To provide therapeutic diets that enhance patients' health and are modified when necessary to meet requirements related to clinical conditions. The MPC will plan menus in advance and substantially follow the plan and the planning and preparation of all meals take into account food flavor, texture, temperature, appearance, and palatability. All menus shall be reviewed annually by the contract Dietitian to ensure dietary allowances for basic nutrition are met. Menus are evaluated quarterly to ensure established basic daily servings are met.

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- A. Therapeutic diets are provided as prescribed by the appropriate medical clinicians of the current healthcare vendor.
- B. The Food Service unit will not accept or honor any diet order submitted by other personnel. Prescriptions for diets should be specific and complete, furnished in writing to the Food Service unit. Diets should be ordered every 90 days, or more often, as clinically indicated.
- C. The contract Dietitian shall clarify any ambiguous diet orders before prescribing.
- D. Medical personnel are currently authorized to approve therapeutic diets for Diabetic, Diabetic with PM snack, High Calorie/High Protein with HS snack, Allergy, Renal, Renal Diabetic/Dialysis, Bland, Mechanical Soft, Pregnancy, Full Liquid, and Clear Liquid.
- E. Therapeutic diets may be ordered under the category of "Other"; however, this diet type must be submitted to the Dietitian for approval prior to prescribing.
- F. A therapeutic diet manual should be available for both Health Services and Food Service for reference and information.
- G. A monthly therapeutic meal consumption report will be provided to the Bureau of Healthcare Services for monitoring offender compliance.
- H. Food shall not be withheld or used as a disciplinary sanction under any circumstance.