



Milford Care Centre

(Under the auspices of Little Company of Mary)
Castletroy, Limerick.

Tel: 061-485800 Fax: 061-331181

Mission Statement

We in Milford Care Centre as a Little Company of Mary Health Care Facility aim to provide the highest quality of care to patients or residents, family and friends, both in the areas of palliative care and services to the older person, as envisaged by Venerable Mary Potter.

We strive to live our core values:-

Justice: To be rooted in integrity, honesty and fairness in all that we do.

Compassion: To seek to understand and to care for all with compassion.

Respect: To treat each person as a unique and valued individual.

Communication: To be open, honest and sensitive in all our communications.

Accountability: To provide a professional service that uses resources economically, efficiently and effectively.

Job Description

JOB TITLE: Senior Dietitian, Specialist Palliative Care Service

ACCOUNTABLE TO: Physiotherapy Manager

SUMMARY OF ROLE:

1. To provide a quality Nutrition & Dietetic Service, as part of the Multi-disciplinary Team, to patients attending Milford Care Centre's Specialist Palliative Care Service In-Patient Unit and Specialist Palliative Care Day Unit
2. To ensure that all services respond to patients' needs and preferences, and that patients are involved in decisions about their own care

Principal Responsibilities

1. To promote and develop palliative care nutritional services.
2. To work as a member of the Specialist Palliative Care multidisciplinary team both within SPC In-patient unit and SPC Day Unit settings and promote good interpersonal relationships within the team to achieve good nutritional care for all patients

3. To identify dietary needs of patients, appropriate to the stage of their illness:
 - Provide individualised nutritional assessment and treatment to patients in the SPC In-Patient Unit & Specialist Palliative Care Day Unit (SPDCU)
 - Recommend and monitor nutritional supplements and artificial nutritional support for patients that require nutritional supplements or artificial nutritional support in the SPC In-Patient Unit & SPDCU.
 - Monitor and manage complications arising from gastrostomy stoma sites, gastrostomy tubes and nasogastric feeding tubes for patients who require artificial nutritional support
 - Educate and supports patients, families, and carers regarding individualised nutritional care plans
 - Monitor and order nutritional supplements, artificial nutrition support and gastrostomy accessories for the SPC In-patient Unit in conjunction with the Nursing team
4. Ensure that all patients receive safe and effective care and treatment based on available evidence.
5. Facilitate joint Dietetic and Speech & Language Therapy assessments to patients who require joint assessments within SPC In-Patient Unit & SPDCU.
6. Liaise with community and acute hospital Dietetic services, in the provision a seamless service to Specialist Palliative Care patients being cared for in the Mid-Western area.
7. Develop and update palliative care nutrition related policies and guidelines for the SPC In-Patient Unit and SPDCU as required.
8. Provide up to date nutritional information to members of the Specialist Palliative Care team via education and training initiatives.
9. Act as a source of expertise for professional colleagues and ensure the dissemination of up-to-date information to all relevant staff.
10. Identify, develop, and evaluate dietary information leaflets for the Specialist Palliative Care service
11. To compile and revise standard diet sheets as required, in consultation with the appropriate medical staff.
12. To liaise with caterers and meal service providers, regarding the provision of therapeutic diets and in the compiling of menus.
13. Attend case conferences, patient care planning meetings and Family Meetings as appropriate

14. To initiate and participate in audit and evaluation of the dietetic service.
15. Review supply of dietary supplements to the SPC In-patient Unit and contribute to pricing negotiations with nutritional companies in conjunction with Dietetic department, University Hospital Limerick

Professional Duties

1. To maintain standards of practice and levels of clinical knowledge by participating in evidence-based practice projects and attending training days relevant to the speciality.
2. In conjunction with the Palliative Care Dietitians nationally to develop standards for working practices for oncology /palliative care patients.
3. To participate in on-going professional and personal development plans with the Physiotherapy Manager.
4. Maintain and update CORU registration annually.

Administration Duties

1. To liaise with the Physiotherapy Manager and regularly update her/ him on developments in their area of service.
2. Collect and collate statistical data in accordance with hospice guidelines, for the monitoring of the service including data specific to the management of patients receiving palliative care.
3. Keep legible, comprehensive, and accurate written records to agreed standards and ensure patient confidentiality is maintained.
4. To carry out other such duties appropriate to his / her office as may be assigned by the Head of Therapy and Social Care Services.
5. A working knowledge of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) as they apply to the post holder in the context of his / her work.

Educational Responsibilities

1. To maintain familiarity with new developments in the Dietetic Service and all relevant matters to ensure that a continuing high standard of professional practice is maintained.
2. To enhance skills on a continuing basis to be proactive in the changing work environment as the role may demand e.g., health education advice, management, research, and data analysis etc.

3. To co-ordinate and participate in in-service training of staff in the assigned area.
4. To participate as required in clinical teaching/training of staff, students, and other professionals.

Health and Safety

- To maintain a safe work environment in co-operation with the Centre Management Team and with reference to the Safety, Health, and Welfare at Work Act, 2005.
- To instruct assigned staff in safe working practices.
- To work in a safe manner with due care and attention to safety of self and other authorised persons in the workplace.
- To be familiar with Milford Care Centre's policies, practices, and procedures.
- To report immediately any accidents or incidents involving patients, staff, or members of the public to the Head of Therapy and Social Care Services.
- To adhere to the policies laid down in the Safety, Health, and Welfare at Work Act, 2005.
- A working knowledge of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) as they apply to the post holder in the context of his/her work.