

Regulations Affecting Order Writing Privileges in Utah Hospitals and Nursing Homes
6-10-17

The Utah Administrative Code contains regulations for healthcare facilities licensed to provide services in Utah. Hospitals must meet the minimum standards specified in Rule R432-100 General Hospital Standards, and nursing homes must meet the minimum standards specified in Rule R432-150 Nursing Care Facilities. Previously, language in these rules prevented RDNs from obtaining order writing privileges in hospitals and nursing homes in this state. The Utah Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics worked with the Utah Medical Association to propose new wording to change these rules to the Utah Department of Health’s Health Facility Licensing Committee. The new rules went into effect on May 16, 2017! This will allow RDNs to work collaboratively with physicians at the top of their scope of practice to ensure quality, timely nutrition care is provided to patients and residents. The new wording is in the table below.

Rule R432-100 General Hospital Standards Previous Wording	Final new wording effective May 17, 2017	Regulation Link
R432-100-32 Dietary Service. <i>3(a) The food and nutritional needs of patients shall be met in accordance with the physician's orders.</i>	3(a) The food and nutrition needs of patients, including therapeutic diets , shall be met in accordance with the orders of the physician responsible for the care of the patient, or if delegated by the physician, the orders of a qualified registered dietitian in consultation with the physician , as authorized by the medical staff and in accordance with facility policy.	Available at https://rules.utah.gov/publicat/cod/e/r432/r432-100.htm#/T32 . Accessed June 10, 2017.
R432-100-32 Dietary Service. <i>“(7) Diets shall be ordered by a member of the medical staff and transmitted in writing to the dietary department.</i>	(7) Dietary orders shall be transmitted in writing to the dietary department.	
R432-150 Nursing Care Facilities Previous Wording	Final new wording effective May 17, 2017	Regulation Link
R432-150-24 Food Services. <i>(5) The attending physician must prescribe in writing all therapeutic diets.</i>	(5) All therapeutic diets must be ordered in writing by the attending physician or by a qualified registered dietitian in consultation with the physician, if allowed by facility policy.	Available at https://rules.utah.gov/publicat/cod/e/r432/r432-150.htm#/T24 . Accessed June 10, 2017.

The governing body that provides oversight at the healthcare facility must still approve policies and procedures specific to that facility authorizing privileges for RDNs, within all applicable federal and state laws.