

Best Practice Guidelines

Recreational Therapy Services and Responsible Service of Alcohol

Objective:

This policy aims to establish best practices for personnel working with individuals in long-term care facilities, ensuring responsible and safe service of alcohol within the parameters of legal and ethical considerations.

1. Eligibility and Assessment:

- All individuals must be assessed to determine their suitability for alcohol consumption based on their health, medications, and individualised care plans.
- Healthcare professionals will conduct periodic reassessments to adjust alcohol service based on changes in health status and or medications.
- With the assessment, should include the general prescription including amount of alcohol and frequency, type of alcohol and how it will be supplied

2. Informed Consent:

- Residents or their legal representatives will provide informed consent for alcohol consumption, acknowledging potential risks and benefits.
- Staff will document the informed consent process in the resident's care plan.

3. Alcohol Service Guidelines:

- Staff will follow established guidelines for the type and amount of alcohol served, adhering to individual care plans and dietary restrictions.
- Alcohol service will align with recommendations, ensuring the safety and well-being of residents.

4. Staff Training:

- All personnel involved in alcohol service will undergo training on responsible alcohol service, recognizing signs of alcohol-related issues, and appropriate interventions.
- Regular training updates will be provided to ensure staff stays informed about changes in best practices and regulations.

5. Documentation and Monitoring:

- Accurate and detailed records of alcohol consumption will be maintained in the 'happy hour' alcohol log and resident's care plans.

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- Supervisors will conduct regular reviews of alcohol service practices to ensure compliance with policies and regulations.

6. Responsible Service:

- Alcohol will only be served during designated times and in approved areas.
- Staff will monitor and limit the pace of alcohol consumption to prevent overconsumption and associated risks.

7. Communication:

- Clear and open communication will be maintained between staff, residents, families, and healthcare professionals regarding alcohol service and any related concerns.
- Any changes in alcohol service plans will be communicated promptly to the resident and their family or legal representative.

8. Legal Compliance:

- Alcohol service will comply with all relevant local, state, and federal laws and regulations.
- Staff will stay informed about legal requirements and promptly address any changes to remain in compliance.

9. Incident Reporting:

- 9.1 Any incidents related to alcohol service, including adverse reactions or concerns raised by residents, will be promptly documented and reported to appropriate supervisors and healthcare professionals.

10. Continuous Improvement:

- Regular reviews of this policy will be conducted to ensure its effectiveness and relevance.
- Feedback from residents, families, and staff will be considered for ongoing improvements in alcohol service practices.

Adherence to this policy ensures the responsible and safe service of alcohol in care facilities, promoting the well-being and quality of life for residents.