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1. Transmitted is a new chapter to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration Manual M-2, "Clinical Affairs," Part I, "General," Chapter 36, "Medical Center Nutrition Committee."

2. The purpose of chapter 36 is to outline the requirements for a Medical Center Nutrition Committee and to define the scope, function, and responsibility of this committee.

3. Filing Instructions

Remove Pages

iii through iv

Insert Pages

iii through iv

36-i through 36-ii

36-1 through 36-2

4. RESCISSIONS: VHA Directive 10-92-056 is rescinded.

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Under Secretary for Health

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RESCISSIONS

The following material is rescinded.

1. COMPLETE RESCISSIONS

a. Manuals

Par. 112f, M10-3

Pars. 129f and 169, M10-6

M-2, part I, changes 2 through 5 through 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18 through 21, 25, 30, 32 through 40, 41, 44, 45, 49, 50, 51, 52, 55, 57, 60.

VHA Supplement MP-1, part I, chapter 2, section A and appendices D and E, change 43, dated October 27, 1987 (Effective October 1, 1992)

VHA Supplement MP-1, part I, chapter 2, Ssection A, change 44, dated July 26, 1991 (Effective October 1, 1992)

b. Interim Issues

II 10-156

II 10-161

II 10-184

II 10-188

II 10-270

II 10-292, pars. I, II, III, App. A

II 10-300

II 10-381

II 10-68-31

II 10-71-33

II 10-71-26 by M-2, part I, chg. 67

II 10-82-53 de facto by chg. 74

II 10-83-7 by chg. 74

c. Circulars

261, 1946, Sec.1

10-62-70

10-65-33

10-82-137 by chg. 68

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10-85-16 by chg. 78

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d. Regulations and Procedure

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RESCISSIONS

The following material is rescinded:

VHA Circulars/Directive

10-92-056

CHAPTER 36. MEDICAL CENTER NUTRITION COMMITTEE

36.01 PURPOSE

This chapter defines the requirements for a MCNC (Medical Center Nutrition Committee) as an advisory group on patient nutrition care.

36.02 POLICY

Each VA (Department of Veterans Affairs) medical center providing nutritional care to veterans will have a formal interdisciplinary MCNC to address nutritional care issues.

36.03 RESPONSIBILITIES

a. The MCNC acts as an advisory group on patient nutrition care issues throughout the medical center. This committee is responsible for considering policies to enhance clinical nutrition care. Their recommendations should be submitted to the CEB (Clinical Executive Board), for action and implementation.

b. Membership will include individuals from appropriate services, including:

- (1) Medical,
- (2) Surgical,
- (3) Dietetics,
- (4) Pharmacy,
- (5) Nursing,
- (6) Ambulatory Care,
- (7) Social Work,
- (8) Dental Service,
- (9) Specialized Medical Programs, and

(10) Where applicable, NST (Nutrition Support Team) (could be the Medical, Surgical, Pharmacy, Nursing or Dietetic representative), Speech Pathology/Dysphagia Team, and facility administration).

c. Membership and the chairperson of the MCNC will be appointed by the medical center Director. The Chief, Clinical Dietetic Section will serve as the executive secretary.

d. The Committee will meet no less than four times a year (quarterly).

e. The MCNC will address the following:

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(1) Integration of nutrition care with other aspects of patient care.

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(2) Review and assistance with development or revision of medical center policies and procedures that impact patient nutrition care.

(3) Periodic review of quality assurance issues regarding patient nutrition care.

(4) Compliance with JCAHO (Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations), or other reviewing body's standards.

(5) Input into preparation and annual review of the medical center's diet manual and/or handbook.

(6) Assist in the evaluation of commercial food supplements and formulas and advise in the development of a formulary.

(7) Nutrition related education and training.

(8) Nutrition related research and proposed research.

(9) Evaluate new technology and therapeutic modalities related to nutrition care.

(10) Coordination for and review activities and recommendations of the NST.

f. The committee will forward its minutes and action items and those of the NST to the CEB for approval and implementation.