

17—7.21 (231) Home-delivered meals.

7.21(1) Eligibility. An older individual who is homebound by reason of illness, incapacitating disability or other cause is eligible to receive home-delivered meals. Regardless of age or condition, the spouse of an older individual may receive home-delivered meals if receipt of the meal is in the best interest of the homebound older individual under criteria set by the AAA.

7.21(2) Individual assessment. The AAA or the home-delivered meals contractor, subject to AAA approval, shall establish and utilize procedures for the determination of an older individual's eligibility for home-delivered meals, including specific criteria for:

- a. Initial assessment of the older individual's eligibility;
- b. Determination of the number of days per week the older individual has a need for home-delivered meals; and
- c. Determination of the older individual's need for other home-delivered nutrition services.

7.21(3) Requirements for providers. The AAA or contractor shall:

- a. Provide for home-delivered meals at least once a day, five or more days a week;
- b. Provide for home-delivered meals to participants according to the frequency of need determined by procedures required in subrule 7.21(2). Meals may be hot, cold, frozen, dried, canned or supplemental foods with a satisfactory storage life;
- c. Make arrangements for the availability of meals to older individuals in weather- and disaster-related emergencies, where feasible;
- d. Provide other nutrition and supportive services either directly or through referral to meet the need of the homebound older individual;
- e. Provide monthly nutrition education for home-delivered meal recipients, to include safe food handling of the delivered meals every six months;
- f. With the consent of the older individual or the older individual's representative, bring to the attention of appropriate officials for follow-up conditions or circumstances which place the older individual or the household in imminent danger. The AAA shall coordinate with other agencies to provide services to the homebound older individual to reduce dependency and cultural, social and geographic isolation caused by noneconomic factors.

The provider is not required to provide meals more than five days per week, but is encouraged to do so.