

Little research exists regarding parent perception and value of nutrition care provided to high risk children in the home despite a recent shift from clinical care back to home-based services. A survey was developed to assess parent perception of care provided by Registered Dietitians (RD's) to Children with Special Health Needs (CSHN). More specifically, the survey was intended to determine if 1) the home-based care was valued, 2) parents were satisfied, and 3) the child's feeding needs were met. The survey, a modified version of King, King, and Rosenbaum's MPOC-56 was developed at 7th grade reading level and pre-tested for readability, content, and face validity. The survey was mailed to all parents of CSHN children seen by a CSHN RD between September 2011 and August 2012 (N=123) and re-mailed to the non-responders resulting in a convenience sample (n=36). SPSS was used to analyze the results. The majority of parents reported the RD's provided valued behaviors and care such as accepting the family in a nonjudgmental way and making the parents feel like partners in the provision of care to a great extent during the home visits. Most parents were satisfied with the care provided and felt their child's feeding needs were met. The findings indicate that provision of nutritional information in various formats may be a potential area of improvement for future CSHN RD's. Moreover, "in-person" home-based meetings with the RD may increase satisfaction levels amongst CSHN families more than communication via other means such as email or phone.