**POLICY: POLICY FOR THICKENED LIQUIDS 639**

A. There must be a physician order for the liquid consistency of honey, nectar or pudding. All efforts will be made to assure the least restrictive consistency is utilized that ensures resident safe intake of fluids.

 B. There may be intervention by a professional speech therapist, per physician and/or treatment team recommendation.

 C. Dietary (cook or licensed nurses) will be responsible to thicken all liquids to the ordered consistency.

 D. Designated staff will be trained during orientation on thickening liquids.

 E. Inservices will be held at least annually and as necessary for cooks and licensed nurses on proper thickening technique.

 F. Quality Assurance monitoring will be done on:

 - Staff ability to correctly thicken liquids to correct consistency

 - Determining resident’s compliance with diet as ordered.

 G. Pre-thickened liquids will be used to the extent possible.

 H. Medications may be given with applesauce or pudding, depending on the consistency ordered. Applesauce and pudding may be used in lieu of other fluids for this purpose.

 I. No liquids will be placed in a residents’ room unless the cook thickens it to the proper consistency. The exception to this is if a resident can demonstrate ability to correctly thicken their own liquids.