

# COLLEGE

## *Briefings*

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Winter 2017

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### **New College Website is coming!**

The College is excited to announce we are currently developing a new website, to be launched early 2017. The new website launch may coincide with registration renewal so below are a few important messages for members:

1. The College has a temporary website set-up that contains most of the content from the old website. This website does not require member login. You still have access to the members' section information but you will not be required to login first.
2. All members now have only one login, to access the Member Login (Online Profile). As in the past, you will be required to use your personal login to access your Profile, Renewal and Continuing Competence Program, Jurisprudence and Permits & Receipts. Your login information has not changed.
3. When the new website launches, the publishing of pages will be staggered. The full website should be launched by the end of March. As the staggered launch will coincide with Registration Renewal, the College will email you all relevant Renewal and CCP information in February (as this may not be available on the website for the entire duration of renewal).

Should you have any questions or require assistance accessing specific information from the website, please do not hesitate to contact the College office.

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*Important Renewal Information will be emailed to members in late February!*

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## **Renewal and CCP Update**

Online Registration Renewal for the upcoming year will begin on March 1, 2017 and close on March 31, 2017. Renewal information will be emailed to members prior to renewal. In the meantime, to assist you in preparing for renewal during February, please refer to the FAQ page in the Members section of the College website under Registration.

The College has been using its online format for CCP for several years now and we continue to notice trends in member submissions. Because of the less structured format for reporting completed activities and the 1,000 character limit to the reflection section, many members are not providing enough detail for the College to understand:

1. What your learning goal was related to the performance indicator you chose,
2. What the activities were that you undertook (specifically),
3. What you learned from those activities, and
4. How practice or competence was enhanced as a result of your learning.

The College asks members to ensure that these four components are included in each online reflection. The College also asks members to consider that although we have made it easier to submit reflections through an online platform, members must continue to track continuing competence activities, track verification of those activities and overall maintain good records in order to write a specific reflection, and for submission to the College in the case of an audit.

We encourage members to utilize the CCP workbook/worksheets available online and to keep these in the case of an audit. We have now made a writeable Microsoft Word version of the CCP Workbook available for members to use. Please review the information posted on the members section of the website, on the **Continuing Competence Program** page, for more information on the program and submissions.

If at any time you have questions about completing the online aspects of the CCP, about verifying completed activities, or any other questions about the Continuing Competence Program of the College, please do not hesitate to contact Shannon Mackenzie, RD, Director of Professional Practice.

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## **New Standards of Practice in Development**

The College is pleased to inform members that we are undertaking a review and revision of our Standards of Practice. This project is to align our Standards of Practice with the *Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education & Practice* (ICDEP) introduced in 2013/14. This project will commence over 2017 and all members of the College will have an opportunity to provide input through a validation survey.

The Standards of Practice for Registered Dietitians in Alberta provide a framework for RD practice. The Standards of Practice are authoritative statements that define the legal and professional expectations of dietetic practice. In conjunction with the *Code of Ethics* for Registered Dietitians, they describe the elements of quality RD practice and facilitate mobility through inter-jurisdictional mutual understanding and agreement of expectations and requirements for practice.

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As members of a self-regulating profession, RDs are personally responsible for meeting the Standards of Practice. The legislative responsibility for setting, monitoring and enforcing the Standards of Practice lies with the provincial regulatory authorities. The policies and practices of employing organizations do not relieve RDs of accountability to meet these Standards of Practice. Where the legislation and Standards of Practice document conflict, legislation will apply.

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### **Self-Employment and Insurance**

In our Fall Newsletter, the College shared a new resource for members titled "Guidelines for Self-Employed Dietitians and Nutritionists". The topics covered in the resource include: legislative and regulatory requirements, skills and experience, best business practices, record keeping, fees and financial management, liability and conflict of interest and advertising and marketing. We encourage all of our members to read this resource, found on the Members section of the College website, under Resources.

Since we published the guidelines, the College has received numerous questions surrounding liability insurance. Below you will find some important information for all members to consider:

1. All members of the College are required to have professional liability insurance. This can be either employer provided or purchased through an insurance provider.
2. You are considered a regulated health professional at all times. Therefore, if you are in private practice or engaged in any dietetic related work (including volunteer) outside of your regular job then you must have third party professional liability insurance.
3. There are two purposes of Professional Liability Insurance: protecting the public and protecting yourself. Liability Insurance provides financial compensation for the public in the event of damages caused by you, the Registered Dietitian. Liability Insurance protects you from having to pay personally for any harm that clients suffer as a result of your conduct.
4. If you only have employer provided insurance, you should be aware of what is covered under the policy. For example, many employers' insurance does not cover legal expenses or criminal defense reimbursement and you would be responsible to pay this cost. Therefore, by doing your due diligence, you will be able to decide whether you require additional coverage.
5. If you are in private practice, you should consider whether you should have Commercial General Liability Insurance, commonly thought of as the "slip and fall" coverage. This insures a business against accidents and injury that might happen on or away from its premises, as well as certain exposures relating to the carrying out of its business operations.

Professional Liability and Commercial General Liability insurance when purchased individually can be expensive. The College of Dietitians of Alberta has arranged for members to be able to purchase both professional liability insurance and commercial general liability insurance from Sheppard Insurance Service through the College insurance program. You can access information on purchasing insurance at the following link:

<http://www.sheppardinsurance.com/insurance.asp?pgcode=pg05b>

## **College Position Statement: Medical Assistance in Dying for Registered Dietitians in Alberta**

Medical assistance in death or dying (MAID) is still very new to the Canadian landscape and the respective roles and obligations of our health care professionals are still being considered and developed. The College has developed a position statement to assist Registered Dietitians (RDs) in understanding what role, if any, they may have with a client who is considering or will be receiving MAID.

The position statement can be viewed on the Members section of the College website, under Resources.

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## **Opportunities for Research Study Participation**

### **Study Title: Development of a Gluten free food guide for Canadians (Child and Youth)**

Dr. Mager, PhD RD and colleagues at the University of Alberta are currently conducting a web-based survey eliciting feedback regarding the development of a Gluten Free Food Guide for Children. The purpose of this internet survey is to elicit feedback from Dietitians to inform food guide content. All responses are confidential and survey participation is voluntary. We appreciate your help with our research.

Please see the attached link if you are interested in completing the survey (survey will be available until April 1, 2017).

<https://redcap.ualberta.ca/surveys/?s=7YT8DTK7AC>

### **Study Title: Views on evidence-based treatments for pediatric eating disorders**

This research study is being led by Dr. Gina Dimitropoulos at the University of Calgary and Dr. Jennifer Coelho at the University of British Columbia.

Purpose: We are interested in assessing the views of health professionals about treatments for children, adolescents, and youth who are diagnosed with an eating disorder. Health professionals working in British Columbia and Alberta who have provided care for an individual with an eating disorder who was under the age 25 are being invited to participate in this study.

If you would like to participate in this study, please access the following website (study website will be available until May 25, 2017):

<https://rc.cfri.ca/redcap/surveys/?s=PTEXEHAD7W>

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## **Contact the College:**

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