



COLLEGE OF DIETITIANS  
OF ALBERTA

## Q&A from the Standards of Practice Webinar (November 2018)

During the live presentation of the College's webinar "Introduction to the new Standards of Practice", the College received a number of great questions from members. We have included the questions and the College's responses below. We encourage all members to review this Q&A, the Standards of Practice webinar ([available here](#)) as well as the posted *Standards of Practice* found on the College website under [About Us – Regulatory Documents](#) for more information.

**Q Can you please resend out all documents you have sent out?**

A You may access the *Standards of Practice* on the College website under [About Us – Regulatory Documents](#).  
You may access the *Guidelines for Promotion and Advertising* on the College website under [For Dietitians – Member Resources](#), Practice Statements and Guidelines.

**Q Can you please send a copy of the slides?**

A The link to the webinar and a copy of the slides has been posted on the College website under [For Dietitians - Member Resources](#), College Webinars.

**Q Can you share a few examples of where the college implemented feedback from members received through one or the other of the two surveys?**

A The College received feedback from more than 600 Dietitians plus stakeholders, which was reviewed and considered in finalizing and approving the *Standards of Practice*. When reviewing feedback, council must consider if the feedback is in the public interest.

Related to Standard 13. Promotion/Advertising, the College heard from members that a review of an RD's work provided by a business, industry, educational institution, another health care practitioner, etc. is not the same as a patient testimonial, which may put an individual at risk. The College also heard that testimonials through public forums such as Google Business Testimonials are not the same as posting an individual patient's testimonial on the RD's webpage. We also heard that re-tweeting a tweet from an attendee at a workplace wellness workshop, for example, would not be the same as tweeting a patient testimonial. Based on the feedback, Standard 13. Promotion/Advertising was revised and a *Guidelines for Promotion and Advertising* was developed as a supplement to the *Standards of Practice*.

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**Q What liability insurance do you recommend for private practice dietitians? Can you please go over insurance requirements?**

A The College has posted information on the Liability Insurance requirements for all regulated members on our website under [For Dietitians – Liability Insurance](#).

**Q As per the testimonials - this is different than reviews correct? We can still receive reviews on google or Facebook?**

A As we indicate in our *Guidelines for Promotion and Advertising*, “Unsolicited testimonials/reviews provided on public forums or third-party websites such as Yelp, Google Reviews, Rate Your MD, etc. are acceptable. However, the RD should not link to the third-party website, nor use the information to advertise their business on their website.” An individual patient’s testimonial on your Facebook timeline or page would not be appropriate, and would need to be managed. A testimonial by a patient on their own Facebook timeline would be acceptable so long as it is not shown on yours.

**Q In the Standards, it references cross border dietetic standards are in development. The standards refer to virtual practice - under our college registration, can we provide virtual services outside of Alberta?**

A Some provinces allow virtual practice without being registered with their College (so long as you are registered in one province). However, prior to providing any type of service to a client residing outside of Alberta, Dietitians are encouraged to contact the regulatory body in the client’s home province to determine that College’s registration requirements. Once those requirements are met, virtual practice is possible.

**Q Can you comment on performing SGA on a patient who is unable to give consent.**

A There are certain circumstances when a patient cannot give consent, but consent is implied and/or provided by an alternate decision maker. When a patient is admitted for emergency treatment, consent is not required in order to save the person’s life. If the client is not capable of giving ongoing consent, the substitute/alternate decision maker must consent to treatment on the patient’s behalf. Once the patient is able to review the terms of consent to treatment then they must be given the opportunity to continue to consent or withdraw consent to treatment if they wish to do so. If you are performing Subjective Global Assessment (SGA) on a patient who was unable to give consent themselves (ie. sedated, comatose, aphasic, etc.), every attempt must be made to let the patient know who you are, the reason for your visit, including why you are performing the SGA, indicating each step of the SGA process where touch is involved.

Please check with your employer on their specific policies related to obtaining consent in this situation.

## FAQ from the Standards of Practice Webinar (November 2018)

**Q Do I need to change the selected Standards that I chose for last year to use these new standards?**

A As indicated in the recent webinar, and the November 2017 webinar, Continuing Competence Program learning goals are now set based on a self-assessment of the *Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice*. This came into effect at renewal time in 2018 and therefore you are not required to change your learning goals unless you wish to do so. You can access the College Webinar – “Continuing Competence Program Update” (November 2017) webinar slides and FAQ on the College website under [For Dietitians – Member Resources](#), College Webinars.

**Q Can we use reading the new standards of practice as a college goal for this year?**

A Members set learning goals based on their self-assessment of the *Integrated Competencies* at renewal time this year (March 2018). Based on the learning goals you identified, or have modified since then, if reviewing the *Standards of Practice* contributes to achieving your learning goal, you can use it as a learning activity.