

# COLLEGE

## *Briefings*

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Spring 2014

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### New Resources on Member Website

The College has posted the following resource on the members section of the College website:

**Member's Handbook:** The College has updated the handbook to reflect current policy and procedure. Updated pages of the handbook will have the year 2014 in the bottom corner.

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### Dysphagia Update

In follow up to the survey sent out by the College in December of 2013, the College conducted focus groups with Dietitians throughout the province who independently conduct swallowing assessments, in an effort to learn more about the education and training required for competence in this area, and to determine how the College can support Dietitians in gaining and/or maintaining competence. It was determined that dysphagia management is a job expectation for most Dietitians working in Continuing Care.

The next steps identified from these focus groups include identifying a set of competencies for practice in the area, with supplemental supporting learning resources, and a list of competent and available mentors in the province. These tools will support Dietitians in gaining and/or maintaining competence related to dysphagia management in practice.

Watch for more information on these resources in the coming months.

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### New Competencies

Over the past five years the Partnership for Dietetic Education & Practice (PDEP) has worked on the development of the *Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice (ICDEP)*. The new competency set was approved in 2013 by regulators, educators and Dietitians of Canada and academic and practicum programs have started the process of implementing the *ICDEP*. The Canadian Dietetic Registration Examination (CDRE) will be based on these competencies. Based on a thorough gap analysis done as part of the validation of the *ICDEP* in 2012/13, it was determined many of the competencies were already being taught to in programs and the November sitting of the CDRE will be based on

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those competencies already in place. For those competencies that need to be implemented the CDRE will incorporate those into the exam as they are implemented in 2014/15.

The Integrated Dietetic Internship at the University of Alberta is the only dietetic education program in Alberta that has been approved by the College of Dietitians of Alberta. To align with the College and dietetic regulators across the country, the Internship will be transitioning to the *Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice* as the framework for intern education and evaluation. The Internship is currently in the process of adapting its documents to reflect this new competency set. The Internship will be conducting focus group consultations with preceptors later this summer/fall to obtain feedback to inform the implementation of these revised documents.

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## Partnership for Dietetic Education & Practice

The Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice (PDEP) is a national collaboration between three sectors: dietetic educators (academic and practicum programs), regulators (Alliance of Canadian Dietetic Regulatory Bodies), and professional association (Dietitians of Canada). Its mandate is to address issues at the intersection of the three sectors' roles.

The PDEP Steering Committee (SC) is pleased to share the following updates on current activities:

### 1. PDEP futures work

PDEP was formed in 2008, because of an urgent need for collaboration between regulators, educators and Dietitians of Canada on new national entry to practice competencies. PDEP also developed new national accreditation standards.

Given PDEP's brief history and its initial focus on standards-related projects, the SC felt it was timely to give broad consideration to PDEP's future mandate and structure. The Partners Working Group (PWG), a subcommittee of the PDEP SC with some additional representation, was formed in 2013 to explore futures issues. An independent facilitator, Wayne Marsh, is working with us, and has structured a "two wave" process to assist us to explore and move forward on the issues.

In "Wave 1" (now complete), Mr. Marsh consulted with the Partner Sector Groups regarding: types of joint initiatives that would complement Partners' priority efforts over the next 5 years; their experience of PDEP's strengths and limitations to date; and, the perceived potential for PDEP to achieve what they'd consider ideal. He brought those findings to a January working session of the SC and PWG on PDEP Futures. The findings affirmed support for PDEP and informed preparation of a draft statement of mandate and function for the organization.

For "Wave 2" (getting underway), Mr. Marsh will suggest processes to support the mandate and functions that the SC and PWG drafted for PDEP. The processes will cover, for example, how: issues get to the PDEP table, priorities are set, important directional decisions are made, members are informed and engaged, and how the diversity of voices is addressed. He will also create a menu of structural forms with inherent strengths and weaknesses. Mr. Marsh will then essentially recreate the Wave I consultation approach, gathering ideas on these materials from the Partner Sector Groups. The SC will use those findings to inform the June 10th Annual Member Meeting (see below).

## **2. Accreditation**

### *Background*

Discussions have been taking place about PDEP's role in accreditation going forward.

### *Accreditation Standards*

As with the Integrated Competencies Project, a collaborative and consultative process was used to develop new accreditation standards. New standards were approved March 2014. The document will be released once translation and desktop publishing are complete. The new standards will be implemented beginning autumn 2014. Thanks again to everyone who contributed.

### *Accreditation Governance*

In January 2014, the PDEPSC and PWG met to explore options for strengthening the overall autonomy of accreditation governance, management and processes. The preferred PDEP governance model would build on the current accreditation approach and ideally limit incremental costs due to infrastructure changes.

The SC has now recommended a working concept that would see:

- Governance of accreditation come under PDEP;
- Operational management and decision-making about program accreditation become the responsibility of a new PDEP Council for Accreditation; and
- Administration of the accreditation services rest with a contracted Service Agency (Dietitians of Canada)

The next step will be to develop, with input from all PDEP sector groups, a Memorandum of Understanding that defines roles and accountabilities, as well as the terms of a Service Agency agreement. Wayne Marsh has been engaged to facilitate this work.

### *Moving forward*

The coming weeks will see an Interim PDEP Council for Accreditation formed to enable accreditation visits under the new system in the near future. The goal is to complete two site visits using the new standards under the new system in 2014, and to develop a complete schedule for implementation in 2015 and beyond.

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### 3. PDEP Annual Member Meeting

Mark your calendars! As a reminder, the meeting will be held in Ottawa on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 from 11 am to 5 pm.

Between now and June 10th, the PDEP SC will receive the Wave II consultation findings and decide on what will be brought to a facilitated working session of the Partners during the Annual Member Meeting.

Questions or Comments? Please direct correspondence to [secretariat@pdep.ca](mailto:secretariat@pdep.ca).

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### Registration Update

The College thanks all members for submitting their registration and CCP on time, bringing to a close our fifth year with online registration renewal. The College reminds all members that practice permits and official tax receipts are now available on the Online Profile under "Permits & Receipts". The College will archive the previous five years of permits and receipts.

As of April 1, 2014, the College of Dietitians of Alberta had 1,127 members complete their registration renewal. The College also had 26 members on the Temporary Register for a total of 1,153 registered members.

The College reminds members that as regulated professionals, RDs have a duty to update their profile within 30 days of any change in the information required for the College's Register. This includes changes to your address, employment information or name changes. You may update your contact information online by logging onto the Online Profile link found on the members section of the College website. Please contact the College office for information on changing your name.

Not receiving correspondence from the College because your contact information has not been updated is not an acceptable excuse for missing a deadline or for not complying with College requirements such as registration renewal.

All important notices are sent to members in several formats well ahead of deadlines and critical information is communicated in email blasts and on our website. It is important to pay attention to College communications and members should visit the website regularly to be informed of changes to College requirements affecting your practice.

### CCP Review and Audit

Now that renewal is behind us, it's time for the annual Continuing Competence Program review and audit process to begin. Remember that every member should expect to have their CCP submissions reviewed a minimum of once every three years and that a portion of those members reviewed will be asked to submit documentation as part of an audit.

The CCP audit involves submitting supporting evidence of your participation in the Continuing Competence Program including verification of activities completed. The audit also includes a mandatory review of liability insurance coverage, confirmation of which must be submitted as part of the audit documentation. Those members selected for CCP audit for 2013/2014 were contacted by mail in April outlining audit submission requirements.

Please note all members are eligible for random selection at any time.

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### Dietitians of Canada Survey

#### Do you use the NCP and IDNT?

Dietetic associations around the world have been promoting the use of the Nutrition Care Process (NCP) and the International Nutrition and Dietetics Terminology (IDNT) since at least 2008. Dietitians of Canada (DC) is often asked by decision-makers provincially, nationally and internationally whether dietitians are actually using the process and language, and whether it is important to include in electronic health records or systems like SNOMED\_CT.

DC's last national survey of dietitians' use of the language was in 2011. Your participation in this 10 minute survey would help DC and provincial dietetic regulatory bodies gather current information about the level of acceptance of the NCP and the IDNT in Canada for on-going advocacy efforts. In addition, it will assist DC in developing the right tools to support uptake in practice.

Deadline to complete the survey is no later than June 10, 2014. Please complete the survey only once. Thank you in advance for your participation. Questions about the survey can be directed to Corinne Eisenbraun at [Corinne.eisenbraun@dietitians.ca](mailto:Corinne.eisenbraun@dietitians.ca).

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