

# Introduction to the new *Standards of Practice*

College of Dietitians of Alberta

## House Keeping

- ▶ If you can't hear me try:
  - ▶ Adjusting the volume on your computer
  - ▶ Refreshing your browser
- ▶ Assistance with technical question through the Q&A
- ▶ All questions asked in relation to the webinar content will be answered in a Q&A document provided to members within a week
- ▶ Webinar will be archived for one year

## Webinar Agenda:

- ▶ Role of the College
- ▶ What are *Standards of Practice*
- ▶ Purpose of *Standards of Practice* and why do we have new ones?
- ▶ Development Process
- ▶ Format, definitions, etc.
- ▶ What do the new Standards mean for RDs?
- ▶ Where do I find them?
- ▶ Who can I contact?

## The College of Dietitians of Alberta

- ▶ Not-for-profit self-governing body under the *Health Professions Act*
- ▶ Regulates in the public interest
- ▶ Establish, maintain and enforce standards for practice

## What are *Standards of Practice*?

- ▶ Support CDA's primary obligation to protect the public
- ▶ Represent minimum mandatory performance of all members in delivering safe, competent, ethical services
- ▶ One element of a continuum of documents such as legislation, Code of Ethics, practice guidelines, competency profiles that shape and guide the practice of the profession
- ▶ Exist within the context of legislative, regulatory and organization/employer requirements
  - ▶ Must comply with the least permissive policies

## Purpose of the *Standards of Practice*

### How they are used varies by group:

- ▶ Registered Dietitians:
  - ▶ Minimum practice requirements that must be adhered to
- ▶ Prospective Registered Dietitians:
  - ▶ Inform performance expectations in Alberta
- ▶ CDA:
  - ▶ Used as a legal reference for RDs' performance in complaints and disciplinary actions
- ▶ Public:
  - ▶ Guide to public expectations from services provided by RDs

## Purpose of the *Standards of Practice*

### How they are used varies by group, continued:

- ▶ Other health providers:
  - ▶ Inform the roles and responsibilities of Registered Dietitians, supporting interprofessional collaboration
- ▶ Educators:
  - ▶ Contribute to and inform curriculum planning and development
- ▶ Employers:
  - ▶ Assist in the development of job profiles and contribute to performance reviews

## Why are there new *Standards of Practice*?

- ▶ *Standards of Practice and Essential Competencies for Dietetic Practice*: 2008
- ▶ *Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice*: 2013

## Development Process

- ▶ Collaborative effort between College of Dietitians of Alberta and Saskatchewan Dietetic Association
- ▶ Hired experienced consultant to assist with the project
- ▶ Draft 1: based on key foundational documents and selected comparator organizations
- ▶ Standards of Practice Advisory Group:
  - ▶ Representation from diverse sectors of the profession from Alberta and Saskatchewan;
  - ▶ Provided input into the Standards throughout the phases of development
- ▶ Distribution of stakeholder survey to CDA and SDA members for validation
- ▶ Distribution to government and external stakeholders for review
- ▶ Final Standards of Practice document approved by council

## The 15 Standards are...

- Standard 1. Assessment and Interventions
- Standard 2. Boundaries
- Standard 3. Client-Centred Services
- Standard 4. Collaborative Practice
- Standard 5. Communication
- Standard 6. Competence
- Standard 7. Conflict of Interest
- Standard 8. Consent
- Standard 9. Evidence-Informed Practice
- Standard 10. Fees and Billing
- Standard 11. Privacy/Confidentiality
- Standard 12. Professional Practice Obligations
- Standard 13. Promotion/Advertising
- Standard 14. Record Keeping
- Standard 15. Safety and Risk Management

## Format of each Standard

- ▶ 15 Standards, alphabetized
- ▶ Standard Statement
  - ▶ Outlines the expected performance of registered members
- ▶ Indicators
  - ▶ Describe specific activities demonstrated by registered members complying with the Standard;
  - ▶ Not listed in order of priority
- ▶ Practice Outcome
  - ▶ Defines what clients/team members can expect from the professional services of RDs

## Format of each Standard continued:

- ▶ Related Standards
  - ▶ List of additional Standards providing more information
- ▶ Glossary
  - ▶ Includes definitions of specific terms used in each Standard
  - ▶ Words are bolded the first time they appear in the Standard
- ▶ Resources
  - ▶ Provide a list of references with background information related to the Standard

## Definition of Client:

Refers to an individual, family, substitute decision-maker, team member, group, agency, stakeholder, government, employer, employee, business, organization, community, or population who is the direct or indirect recipient(s) of the Registered Dietitian's expertise.

## Example: Standard 11. Privacy/Confidentiality

### Standard

Registered Dietitians uphold and protect clients' rights to privacy and confidentiality of information collected during the provision of professional services by complying with applicable legislative and regulatory requirements.

## Example: Standard 11. Privacy/Confidentiality

### Indicators

To demonstrate this standard, Registered Dietitians will:

- a) Ensure client **consent** is obtained prior to collecting or disclosing personal, organizational, and/or business information, unless **duty to report** obligations is required.
- b) Access and collect only the client information that is essential to carry out the provision of safe, competent, ethical services.
- c) Use physical, technical, and administrative safeguards (e.g., locked filing cabinets, passwords, encrypting documents, laptops and PCs) to protect paper-based, audio, video, electronic or other client information.
- d) Avoid conversations about clients and/or professional services provided that can be overheard and/or breach privacy and confidentiality.

## Example: Standard 11. Privacy/Confidentiality

### Practice Outcome

Clients can expect Registered Dietitians to keep their information private and secure.

### Related Standards

- Client-Centred Services
- Consent
- Professional Practice Obligations
- Record Keeping



## Example: Standard 11. Privacy/Confidentiality

### Glossary

**Clients** refer to an individual, family, substitute decision-maker, team member, group, agency, stakeholder, government, employer, employee, business, organization, community, or population who is the direct or indirect recipient(s) of the Registered Dietitian's expertise.

**Consent** refers to "the consent or agreement of a client to undergo an assessment process or treatment intervention, after gaining an understanding of the relevant facts and risks involved." Consent in this document refers to informed consent. Consent may be "implied" (by participating in a dialogue and agreeing to the continuation of a consultation, the client has implied their consent to treatment) or "expressed" (stated verbally or in writing) by the client.

**Duty to report** refers to the Registered Dietitian's legal responsibility to report in specifically defined situations (e.g., abuse of children and vulnerable individuals, individual poses a serious threat of harm to themselves or others).

**Professional services** refer to "all actions and activities of a dietitian in the context of their professional practice."

## Example: Standard 11. Privacy/Confidentiality

### Resources

- o College of Dietitians of Alberta. (2008). *Code of Ethics*. Available at: <http://collegeofdietitians.ab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Code-of-Ethics-Master-revised-April-2008.pdf>
- o College of Dietitians of Alberta. (2014). *The Professional Practice Handbook for Dietitians in Alberta*. Available at: <http://collegeofdietitians.ab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Professional-Practice-Handbook-for-Dietitians-in-Alberta-2014.pdf>
- o College of Dietitians of Ontario. (2017). *Unpacking Consent: Professional & Regulatory Obligations for Dietetic Practice*. Available at: <https://www.collegeofdietitians.org/Resources/Document-Type/E-Learning-Modules/Consent-Learning-Modules.aspx>
- o Government of Canada. (2015). *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) website*. Available at: <https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/privacy-topics/privacy-laws-in-canada/the-personal-information-protection-and-electronic-documents-act-pipeda/>
- o Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice. (2013). *The Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice (ICDEP)*. Available at: <https://www.pdep.ca/tools/standards.aspx>
- o Province of Alberta. (2017). *Child, Youth & Family Enhancement Act*. Available at: <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/c12.pdf>
- o Province of Alberta. (2015). *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP)*. Available at: <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/F25.pdf>
- o Province of Alberta. (2016). *Health Information Act*. Available at: <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/H05.pdf>
- o Province of Alberta. (2014). *Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA)*. Available at: <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/P06P5.pdf>
- o Province of Alberta. (2010). *Protection for Persons in Care Act*. Available at: <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/P29P1.pdf>

## Standard 13. Promotion/Advertising

- ▶ Code of Ethics:

- 3.7 Advertising / Promotion and Endorsements

- (1) The dietitian does not engage in any form of advertising/promotion or endorsement of products and services that:

- b) makes statements or claims that are false, misleading, inaccurate or unverifiable;

- c) creates an unjustified expectation about the results that can be achieved;

- ▶ Testimonials: Legal opinion

## Standard 13. Promotion/Advertising

- ▶ Standard

Registered Dietitians provide information and advertise their professional services and/or products in compliance with applicable legislative and regulatory requirements.

**Indicators**

To demonstrate this standard, Registered Dietitians will:

- Engage in advertising that is truthful, objective, and accurate.
- Adhere to the CDA Code of Ethics and refrain from using advertising that directly or indirectly:
  - creates unjustified expectations about the results;
  - may mislead or misinform the public (e.g., use of testimonials).
  - compares the ability, quality, and/or cost of professional services with that of other Registered Dietitians;
  - takes advantage physically, emotionally or financially of clients; and
  - endorses, promotes or recommends exclusive use of a product/brand used/sold as a component of professional services, unless supported by evidence.

## Standard 13. Promotion/Advertising

- ▶ Guidelines for Promotion and Advertising
- ▶ “client” vs “patient”

## What do the new Standards mean for RDs?

- ▶ Replace the *Standards of Practice and Essential Competencies*
  - ▶ *Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice (CCP)*
  - ▶ *Standards of Practice*
  - ▶ *Code of Ethics*
  - ▶ *Professional Practice Handbook for Dietitians in Alberta*
  - ▶ Jurisprudence Learning Module
- ▶ Minimum practice expectation = need to know and be familiar with them
- ▶ Apply to all RDs
- ▶ They are based on the College’s foundational documents (code of ethics, past Standards, ICDEP, guidelines, legislation, etc.)

## What do they mean for RDs?

- ▶ You could set a continuing competence goal on reviewing and learning about the Standards!

## Where do RDs find them?

- ▶ College website:  
About Us - Regulatory Documents  
<http://collegeofdietitians.ab.ca/about-us/regulatory-documents/>

## Who can I speak with if I have questions?

- ▶ Shannon Mackenzie, Director of Professional Practice
  - ▶ 403-669-7435
  - ▶ [ppc@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca](mailto:ppc@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca)
  
- ▶ Call the College office
  - ▶ 780-448-0059
  - ▶ 1-866-493-4348
  - ▶ [office@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca](mailto:office@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca)