



**COLLEGE OF DIETITIANS
OF ALBERTA**

**STANDARD OF PRACTICE:
Prevention of Female Genital Mutilation**

February 2023

Standard. Prevention of Female Genital Mutilation

Introduction

This *Standard of Practice* addresses the Prevention of Female Genital Mutilation, as outlined in *Bill 10: Prohibiting the Practice of Female Genital Mutilation of the Health Professions Act*.

Registered Dietitians and Registered Nutritionists are specifically trained as nutrition and food experts. They help contribute to the health and well being of all Albertans. As essential members of interprofessional health care teams, Registered Dietitians and Registered Nutritionists translate scientific, medical, and nutrition information into practical, individualized therapeutic diets and meal plans for people. Collaboration with clients, caregivers, health professionals and/or other stakeholders is central to dietetic practice.

Standard

Registered Dietitians do not procure or perform **Female Genital Mutilation**.¹

Indicators

To demonstrate this Standard, Registered Dietitians will:

- a) abstain from procuring for or performing female genital mutilation on a **client**, and
- b) have a **duty to report**, in accordance with section 127.2 of the *Health Professions Act (HPA)*, to the complaints director of the relevant college if they have reasonable grounds to believe that another regulated member of any college has procured or performed female genital mutilation.

Related Standards of Practice (2018)

- Professional Practice Obligations

Glossary

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.²

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).^{3, 4}

Female Genital Mutilation, as defined in the HPA s.1(1)(m.1), means "the excision, infibulation or mutilation, in whole or in part, of the labia majora, labia minora, clitoral hood or clitoris of a person, except where valid consent is given, and

¹ Words in the Glossary are **bolded** the first time they appear in each Standard.

² Adapted from College of Dietitians of Alberta. (2008). *Code of Ethics*. Available from: <https://collegeofdietitians.ab.ca/>

³ Adapted from College of Dietitians of Alberta. (2008). *Code of Ethics*. Available from: <https://collegeofdietitians.ab.ca/>

⁴ Saskatchewan Dietitians Association. (2005). *Saskatchewan Dietitians Association Code of Ethics for Registered Dietitians*. Available at: <http://www.saskdietitians.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Code-of-Ethics-SDA.pdf>

- (i) a surgical or other procedure is performed by a regulated member under [the HPA] for the benefit of the physical health of the person or for the purpose of that person having normal reproductive functions or normal sexual appearance or function, or
- (ii) the person is at least 18 years of age and there is no resulting bodily harm.”

Resources

- Government of Alberta (2022). *Bill 10: Prohibiting the Practice of Female Genital Mutilation*. Available at:
<https://www.assembly.ab.ca/assembly-business/bills/bill?billinfoid=11963>