

# Regulatory Odds & Ends

College of Dietitians of Alberta  
September 18, 2023  
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## Agenda

1. Review of Webinar
2. College vs Association roles
3. Use of Nutritionist Title
4. Private Practice: Direct Billing; Find a Dietitian Directory
5. Virtual Practice in Canada
6. Currency and Dietetic Practice Hours
7. Professional Liability Insurance
8. Legal Name: Permits, Registers and more
9. Standards of Practice: What's new and What's Your Responsibility

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## College/Regulatory Body vs Association

- ▶ Regulatory Role
  - ▶ What the College can do
  - ▶ What the College can't do
    - ▶ The College is not allowed to advocate to insurance company
- ▶ Association Role

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## Using the Nutritionist Title

- ▶ What's new: You can use the title Nutritionist
- ▶ What to do:
  - ▶ Report Title misuse
  - ▶ When using the title Nutritionist, identify yourself as a member of the College

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## Private Practice

- ▶ **What to know:**
  - ▶ The College is limited in its role
    - ▶ We can't promote
    - ▶ We can't provide legal advice
- ▶ **What you can do:**
  - ▶ Include only one employment record for your private practice
  - ▶ Refer to resources on private practice on the website
    - ▶ Guidelines for Self-Employed Dietitians
    - ▶ Resources for private practice
    - ▶ Guideline for Promotion and Advertising
  - ▶ Find a Dietitian Directory on the website
    - ▶ Private practice RDs only (optional)

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## Find a Dietitian Directory

- ▶ **To have your private practice contact information displayed:**
  - ▶ Have an active private practice, including a private practice employment record
  - ▶ Provide general consent in the Consent section of the Profile for details regarding phone, email address and employment mailing address.
  - ▶ Refer to the Guide to Find a Dietitian Directory on the College website under For Dietitians - Regulated Member Resources - Login for Regulated Members Resources

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## Private Practice: Blue Cross

- ▶ What you can do:
  - ▶ RDs can put claims through insurance coverage, eg Blue Cross in AB
  - ▶ RDs can register with Alberta Blue Cross for online claim submission for eligible services
    - ▶ <https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/diet-nutr-home.php>
  - ▶ Contact AB Blue Cross re direct billing

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## Virtual Practice in Canada

- ▶ Including cross-border practice
- ▶ As per the *HPA*, all RDs who provide services to Albertans must be registered in AB
- ▶ AB RDs seeking registration information when providing services to clients in other provinces must check with the respective regulators in those provinces.
- ▶ Guide for Provincial Registration Requirements for Cross-Border Dietetic Practice
  - ▶ College website: under For Dietitians - Regulated Member Resources

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## Currency and Dietetic Practice Hours

- ▶ Declare Employment Status
  - ▶ Dietetic = practicing dietetics
    - ▶ Declare dietetic practice hours for each employment record
  - ▶ Non-Dietetic = employment not in the field of dietetics = not practicing dietetics
    - ▶ Do not declare practice hours
- ▶ Dietetic work:
  - ▶ food, nutrition, health, wellness, public/population health, health leadership/management (regulated member teams), education/research in dietetics
  - ▶ Did your status as an RD lead to you being hired in the position?

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## Currency and Dietetic Practice Hours

- ▶ Currency or current = 600 dietetic practice hours over the past 3 years (not including vacation, leave)
  - ▶ Documented annually at renewal.
- ▶ I am not current/I do not have 600 dietetics hours over the past 3 years/I do not work in dietetics:
  - ▶ If you do not declare practice hours, you will be considered non-current
  - ▶ Must contact the College for review prior to resuming work in dietetics
  - ▶ Dietitians who are not current - and want to resume practice - will be required to submit an application for review by the College

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## Professional Liability Insurance

- ▶ Purpose: protect the public / protect the practitioner
- ▶ Requirement for practice / College Policy
  - ▶ At least \$2 Million per occurrence
  - ▶ Could be third party, and/or
  - ▶ Employer provided
- ▶ Know your policy/what you are covered for; there may be exclusions you were unaware of, e.g.
  - ▶ Representation for College complaints
  - ▶ Representation/indemnity for intentional acts of wrongdoing (privacy breach)
  - ▶ Representation/indemnity for activities outside scope of employment
- ▶ Employment insurance may not be enough

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## Liability insurance and complaints

- ▶ Complaint to your employer based on your conduct, and you are terminated, suspended or you resign:
  - ▶ Employer must notify the Complaints Director of the College in compliance with the *HPA*
  - ▶ This information *may* be treated as a complaint, and acted upon under the *HPA*
  - ▶ Employer insurance would not cover you for legal representation and/or damages

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## Liability Insurance and Complaints

- ▶ Reasons to hold personal Professional Liability Insurance (PLI) in addition to Employer insurance:
  - ▶ Employer policies may not cover legal defense or for damages
  - ▶ Employer's insurance company may sue you for reimbursement of money paid out as a result of your actions
  - ▶ Personal PLI follows you if you work with more than one employer, covers volunteer work or advice you give outside of work hours
  - ▶ PLI covers you post employment during which time clients may still bring a complaint against you.

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## Professional Liability Insurance: Options

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  - ▶ Nlp'm'yp'E qmg'ig'y gdukg wpfgtHqt'Flg'w'cpu'/' Nlc'dk'w' Kpuwtcpeg
- ▶ Dietitians of Canada

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## Legal Name

All RDs have a duty to ensure their profile information with the College is updated within 30 days of any change in the information required for the College's Register.

- ▶ College is required to have registered members' full legal name, under HPA
- ▶ College is unable to alter the name displayed
- ▶ Request a name change by completing a Profile Update
  - ▶ Must upload a copy of government issued ID with the name change reflected
- ▶ Legal name must match the name on your profile and practice permit

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## Standards of Practice

- ▶ Responsibility to be familiar and comply with all College Standards of Practice
- ▶ Main Standards - 2018
- ▶ Bill 21 *An Act to Protect Patients - Sexual Abuse and Sexual Misconduct Prevention*
- ▶ Bill 46 *Health Statutes Amendment Act: Continuing Competence Program Requirements*
- ▶ Female Genital Mutilation
- ▶ **NEW:**
  - ▶ Reconciliation (in progress)
  - ▶ Supervision of Restricted Activities

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## Questions

- ▶ Questions and answers will be shared after today
- ▶ Contact:  
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