

Scope of Practice Statement for Registered Dietitians in Saskatchewan

Registered Dietitians are health care professionals uniquely trained in the areas of food, nutrition and health. Registered Dietitians are university educated in science, management, human development, and health of populations[†]. Registered Dietitians are the only regulated nutrition health professionals in Saskatchewan.

Registered Dietitians collaborate with individuals, community groups, populations, interprofessional health care teams and others, to provide evidence informed food and nutrition services. As trusted professionals, Registered Dietitians fill many roles, depending on where they work. Dietitians provide services in a variety of practice settings including, but not limited to: community, public health, health care, industry, government, media, education, management, research and private practice. The Saskatchewan Dietitians Association protects the public through the regulation of Registered Dietitians through *The Dietitians Act*[†] (2001), SDA Bylaws[†] (including the SDA Code of Ethics) and the Professional Standards for Dietitians in Canada[†].

The practice of Registered Dietitians in Saskatchewan includes but is not limited to:

- Providing medical nutrition therapy[†] through the application of the Nutrition Care Process[†] for the purposes of disease prevention, treatment and management.
- Optimizing health and well being of patients/clients through delivery of quality products, programs and services.
- Promoting nutritional health and well-being of individuals, groups, communities and populations.
- Influencing standards, guidelines and policies that create and encourage an environment that supports nutritional health.
- Engaging, supporting and partnering with individuals, communities and populations to take action on issues that affect their nutritional health.
- Managing food and nutrition systems, including programs, projects and services.
- Facilitating and conducting food, nutrition and related research across a variety of settings.
- Educating and training others about food and nutrition in a variety of practice settings.

The Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice[†] define the knowledge and skills needed for entry level Dietitians to work safely, ethically and competently. The acquisition of additional skills, knowledge, and experience will lead toward mastery and advanced level practice in nutrition, dietetics, and health services.

[†]denotes items defined in the Glossary

Glossary

The Dietitians Act is the provincial legislation that names Saskatchewan Dietitians Association as the regulatory body for Registered Dietitians in the province of Saskatchewan. The Dietitians Act gives Saskatchewan Dietitians Association the mandate to establish practice standards for the dietetic profession, set the standards for professional conduct, monitor continuing competence of its members and provide a framework for investigation of complaints and discipline of members. The **SDA Bylaws** (Administrative and Regulatory) provide detail on how the regulatory mandate of SDA is realized and the **Professional Standards for Dietitians in Canada** and **SDA Code of Ethics** describe the expected/acceptable behaviour of dietetics profession in Saskatchewan.

Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice² articulate the education and training outcomes that form the standard for entry to practice for Registered Dietitians in Canada.

Medical Nutrition Therapy³ is the application of food and nutrition expertise to provide care for a variety of conditions and illnesses to improve health and quality of life.

Nutrition Care Process⁴ is a systematic approach to providing high quality nutrition care. The Nutrition Care Process consists of four distinct, interrelated steps:

- **Nutrition Assessment:** The collection and documentation of information such as food or nutrition-related history; biochemical data, medical tests and procedures; anthropometric measurements, nutrition-focused physical findings and client history.
- **Nutrition Diagnosis:** The identification and description of a specific nutrition problem that can be resolved or improved through treatment/nutrition intervention by a Registered Dietitian.
- **Intervention:** Specific actions used to remedy a nutrition diagnosis/problem, and can be used with individuals, a group, or the community at large. These nutrition interventions are intended to change a nutrition-related behaviour, environmental condition, or aspect of nutritional health.
- **Monitoring/Evaluation:** Tracking of patient/client outcomes relevant to the nutrition diagnosis and intervention plans and goals to determine whether the nutrition intervention is or is not changing the patient/client behavior or nutritional/health status.

References

¹Dietitians of Canada. (2012). What does a dietitian do? Retrieved from <http://www.dietitians.ca/Find-A-Dietitian/What-does-a-Dietitian-do.aspx>

²The Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice. (March 2012). The Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice. Retrieved from <http://www.pdep.ca/files/ICDEP - Report- March 2012.pdf>

³Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics International Dietetics and Nutrition Terminology, 4th Edition, Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics, 2013.

⁴Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics International Dietetics and Nutrition Terminology Pocket Guide, 4th Edition, Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics, 2013.