

Standard 3. Boundaries

Standard

Registered Dietitians maintain clear and appropriate **professional boundaries** with **clients** and **team members**.

Indicators

To demonstrate this standard, Registered Dietitians will:

- a) Be sensitive to their position of relative power or influence in professional relationships and not use this status to take physical, emotional, sexual or financial advantage of clients and team members.
- b) Establish and maintain appropriate professional boundaries in relationships with clients and team members.
- c) Respect, establish, and manage effectively, the boundaries that separate their personal and professional relationships/roles in all contexts (e.g., face to face, **virtual dietetic practice**, social media).
- d) Obtain **consent** prior to touching a client.
- e) Refrain from entering professional relationships when current or previous personal, financial, employment, and/or legal affiliations would compromise **professional services** or integrity.
- f) Ensure that **boundary crossings** that cannot be avoided (e.g., treatment of family/friend in specialized or rural practice) are reported to the appropriate authority (e.g., manager, team leader) and strategies to manage are documented (e.g., in the client file, record).
- g) End professional relationships with clients, transfer care when professional boundaries cannot be maintained, and document, as required, how the situation was managed.

Practice Outcome

Clients can expect Registered Dietitians to maintain clear and appropriate professional boundaries at all times.

Related Standards

- Assessment and Interventions
- Client-Centred Services
- Conflict of Interest
- Consent
- Professional Practice Obligations

Resources

- College of Dietitians of British Columbia. (2023). *Professional Boundaries in Therapeutic Relations – Where's the Line?* Available [here](#).

Saskatchewan Resources

- Saskatchewan College of Dietitians. (2005). *Code of Ethics*. Available at: <https://www.saskdietitians.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/SCD-Code-of-Ethics-2005.pdf>
- Saskatchewan College of Dietitians. (2017). *Jurisprudence Workbook*. Available at: <https://www.saskdietitians.org/scd-standards-for-safe-competent-ethical-conduct/>
- Saskatchewan College of Dietitians (2018). *Guideline on Consent*. Available at: <https://www.saskdietitians.org/scd-standards-for-safe-competent-ethical-conduct/>