

## Standard 8. Conflict of Interest

### Standard

Registered Dietitians will avoid real or perceived **conflicts of interest** in which professional integrity, professional independence or the provision of **professional services** could be compromised. Conflicts of interest which cannot be avoided must be disclosed and managed.

### Indicators

To demonstrate this standard, Registered Dietitians will:

- a) Recognize any situations in which a conflict of interest could have an impact on their professional judgment.
- b) Avoid any conflict of interest in which professional services could be compromised.
- c) When a conflict of interest cannot be avoided, disclose to the appropriate authority (e.g., manager, team leader), manage the situation, and/or discontinue professional services.
- d) Document any conflict of interest, the efforts to manage it, and the outcome(s).
- e) Provide options for the provision of services and/or products when a conflict of interest exists.
- f) Refrain from accepting personal incentives (e.g., gifts, donations, funding, recruitment/referral fees) from service and/or product sponsors when the Registered Dietitian stands to profit personally and/or financially.
- g) Refrain from offering incentives to **clients** that places the Registered Dietitian's personal gain above their professional responsibilities.

### Practice Outcome

Clients can expect Registered Dietitians to provide professional services that are in the client's best interests and to disclose and manage any conflicts of interest.

### Related Standards

- Advertising
- Boundaries
- Client-Centred Services
- Professional Practice Obligations
- Record Keeping

### Resources

- Advertising Standards Canada. (2017). *Canadian Code of Advertising Standards*. Available at: <http://www.adstandards.com/en/Standards/canCodeOfAdStandards.aspx>
- Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice v.3 Available at: <https://www.saskdietitians.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Integrated-Competencies-For-Dietetic-Education-And-Practice-ICDEPV-3-August-4-2020.pdf>

### 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. (2017). *Guidelines for Self-Employed Registered Dietitians in Saskatchewan*. Available at: <https://www.saskdietitians.org/scd-standards-for-safe-competent-ethical-conduct/>