



NOVA SCOTIA COLLEGE OF
Dietitians AND
Nutritionists

Professional self-regulation: *privileges and responsibilities*

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September 27, 2023

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Agenda

1. Dietitians Act
2. Self-regulation
3. What does the College regulate?
4. What doesn't the College regulate?
5. Privileges
6. Responsibilities
7. Prescribing

Dietitians Act

CHAPTER 2 OF THE ACTS OF 2009



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Published by Authority of the Speaker of the House of Assembly
Halifax

1. *Dietitians Act, SNS 2009, c 2*

In order to

- a) serve and protect the public interest;
- b) preserve the integrity of the profession; and
- c) maintain public confidence in the ability of the profession to regulate itself,

2. What is Self-regulation?

A statutory privilege granted to a profession enabling the profession to regulate itself in the public interest.

Not a right.

Not in members' interest.

3. What does the College regulate?

- **Who** can practice (entry to practice requirements and license renewal requirements)
- **What** they call themselves (protected titles)
- **What** they can do (scope practice)
- **How** they do it (standards of practice and code of ethics)
- Interventions **when** breaches occur (complaints and hearings; action for unauthorized practice)

4. What doesn't the College regulate?

- Purpose is not to advocate on behalf of registrants
- Focus is always on public interest, but to extent the interests of the profession are not in conflict, the regulator can also serve those interests
- No longer an association

5. Privileges of registrants

- A. Engage in the practice of dietetics – partial monopoly
- B. Serve on College Board and Committees
- C. Incorporate practice
- D. Use restricted titles: “Registered Dietitian”, “R.D”



With privileges, come responsibilities

6. Responsibilities of registrants


Accept the regulatory authority of the College

- Always refrain from:
 - publicly challenging the integrity of the College's role or actions;
 - breaching an undertaking given to the College;
 - failing to comply with an order of a College committee;
 - being dishonest or deceptive towards the College.

6. Responsibilities of registrants (Cont'd)

Statutory reporting

- Immediately report charges/offences to College – s. 45(4)
- Report to the College if suspected misconduct, incompetence, conduct unbecoming, incapacity - s. 65(1)
- Reports to other health regulators - s. 65(2)
- Employer reporting of termination – s. 29(2)(b)



The 4 'C's

6. Responsibilities of registrants (Cont'd)

Duty to **co-operate**

- co-operate in investigations by the College
- participate in the continuing competency program (CCP)
- respond appropriately to correspondence from the College

6. Responsibilities of registrants (Cont'd)

Duty to maintain **competence**

- ability to integrate and apply the knowledge, skills and judgement required to practise dietetics safely and ethically in a designated role and practice setting and includes both **entry-level and continuing competencies**

6. Responsibilities of registrants (Cont'd)

Duty to maintain **capacity**

- free from a medical, physical, mental or emotional condition, disorder or addiction that renders a registrant unable to practise with reasonable skill or judgement or that may endanger the health or safety of patients

6. Responsibilities of registrants (Cont'd)

Duty to maintain **character**

- good character is indispensable to the profession's ability to self-regulate.
- health care professionals have a special relationship with members of the public, rooted in mutual trust, confidence, and respect that is critical to effective practice
- honestly, candour, integrity, and empathy are fundamental qualities of any individual who seeks to practise as a health care professional

7. Nutrition Prescribing

- Prescribing is within the legislated scope of practice of dietetics:

nutrition prescription, including enteral and parenteral nutrition and the prescription or ordering of drugs or other agents to optimize nutrition status

- The *Dietitians Act* authorizes dietitians to prescribe drugs, nutrition support and nutrition agents to optimize nutrition status

7. Nutrition Prescribing (Cont'd)

NSCDN has developed Nutrition Prescription Standards

- Educated and competent
- Complete Nutrition Prescription e-Learning Module
- Board approval of organization
- Prescriber certification from employer
- Intent of the prescription must be to impact nutritional status
- Dietitians working in private practice settings are not authorized to become authorized prescribers

7. Nutrition Prescribing (Cont'd)

- ❑ Dietitians have the authority to prescribe drugs and nutrition agents to optimize nutrition status according to the Authorized Drug Classifications for Dietitians.
- ❑ Dietitians are not authorized to prescribe any drugs listed in the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and its Regulations

7. Nutrition Prescribing (Cont'd)

Recommending *versus* prescribing

When all requirements of the Nutrition Prescription Standards are met, dietitians are fully authorized to prescribe a diet, drug, or nutrition agent.

Recommending, rather than prescribing, does not necessarily relieve dietitians from liability owing to professional misconduct, incompetence, or negligence.

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