

Professional self-regulation: privileges and responsibilities

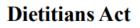
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Agenda

- **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





CHAPTER 2 OF THE ACTS OF 2009



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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 <u>privilege</u>** granted to a profession enabling the profession to regulate itself in the **<u>public interest</u>**.

Not a **<u>right</u>**.

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;
 - o breaching an undertaking given to the College;
 - failing to comply with an order of a College committee;
 - o being dishonest or deceptive towards the College.

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)





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



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 <u>and</u> continuing competencies

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



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 <u>not</u> necessarily relieve dieticians from liability owing to professional misconduct, incompetence, or negligence.



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