Academy Scope of Practice:

A Tool for Determining Competence and Advancing Practice

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Objectives

• Describe the purpose of each component of the Comprehensive Scope of Practice Resource for the RD or RDN and DTR

• Utilize the scope of practice documents for self-assessment to determine competence and how to advance practice

• Utilize the online interactive Scope of Practice Decision Tool to determine if an activity is within an RD or RDN or DTR’s individual scope of practice

Just released!

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• Comprehensive Scope of Practice Resource for the RD or RDN
• Comprehensive Scope of Practice Resource for the DTR
What do these Resources do?

- Provide an overview of the profession
- Outline practice standards, practice management and advancement, and practice resources
- Detail roles and activities in which the RD or RDN and DTR performs

Code of Ethics

Principle #14-
The dietetics practitioner assumes a life-long responsibility and accountability for personal competence in practice, consistent with accepted professional standards, continually striving to increase professional knowledge and skills and to apply them in practice.

Comprehensive Scope of Practice

Resource Components:
- Scope of Practice in Nutrition and Dietetics
- Scope of Practice for the RD
- Revised 2012 Standards of Practice (SOP) in Nutrition Care and Standards of Professional Performance (SOPP) for RDs
- Scope of Practice for the DTR
- Revised 2012 SOP in Nutrition Care and SOPP for DTRs
- Scope of Practice Decision Tool
- Definition of Terms
Resource Components

Let’s Review!

Scope of Practice in Nutrition and Dietetics

RD or RDN Scope of Practice

Describes the range of roles and activities within which the RD or RDN performs

- Must be consistent with statutory and individual scope of practice
If your state law does not define scope of practice, this document may assist with identifying activities that may be permitted within your individual Scope of Practice.

RDs or RDNs only practice in areas in which they are qualified and demonstrate competence in the delivery of food and nutrition services.

RDs or RDNs provide Medical Nutrition Therapy
- cost-effective, essential component of comprehensive nutrition care of medical diseases and conditions

Medical Nutrition Therapy is an evidenced-based application of the Nutrition Care Process (NCP).
RD or RDN Scope of Practice

RDs or RDNs are ultimately accountable and responsible for nutrition care provided to individuals:
- RDs or RDNs may assign tasks within the Nutrition Care Process to administrative and technical support personnel.
- RDs or RDNs are accountable and responsible to patients/clients, physicians, regulators, accrediting organizations, and employers for actions assigned to others.

RD or RDN Scope of Practice

- How many of you work in hospitals?
- How many of you have clinical privileges in your hospital?

CMS Proposed Rule
- Would allow RDs with clinical privileges in their hospital to write orders for patient diets independently.

Let's Review

Revised 2012 Standards of Practice in Nutrition Care and Standards of Professional Performance.
SOP and SOPP

Standards of Practice (SOP) in Nutrition Care for Registered Dietitians and Dietetic Technicians, Registered

Standards of Professional Performance (SOPP) for Registered Dietitians and Dietetic Technicians, Registered

- Identify the minimum competent level of nutrition and dietetics practice and professional performance for RDs or RDNs and DTRs
- Self-assess RD or RDN and DTR practice and performance
- Measure quality and performance improvement through outcomes examples
- Utilize quality indicators for practice and performance
- Direct the RD or RDN and DTR to incorporate the Dietetics Career Development Guide

SOP

Apply to RDs or RDNs and DTRs in direct patient/client care

- Based on the Nutrition Care Process
  - Nutrition Assessment
  - Nutrition Diagnosis
  - Nutrition Intervention/Plan of Care
  - Nutrition Monitoring and Evaluation

SOPP

- Apply to RDs or RDNs and DTRs in all practice settings
- Formatted according to the 6 domains of professional behavior
  - Quality in practice, competence and accountability, provision of services, application of research, communication and application of knowledge, utilization and management of resources
- Reflect the training, responsibility and accountability of the RD or RDN and DTR
SOP and SOPP

Standards provide:
- minimum competent levels of practice and performance
- common indicators for self-evaluation
- activities for which RDs or RDNs and DTRs are accountable
- a description of the role of nutrition and dietetics and the unique services that RDs or RDNs and DTRs offer
- guidance for policies and procedures, job descriptions, competence assessment tools and academic objectives for education programs

SOP and SOPP

Standards can be used for professional development and to advance practice
- Use the SOP SOPP to identify learning needs and opportunities for advancement
- Develop goals
- Focus continuing education efforts

SOP and SOPP

Serve as the foundation for development of focus area SOP SOPP for RDs or RDNs
- “core” SOP in Nutrition Care and SOPP for RDs

Focus area SOP SOPP delineate levels of practice for RDs or RDNs
- Competent
- Proficient
- Expert
Focus Area SOP SOPP

For the RD or RDN:
1) Clinical Nutrition Management
2) Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
3) Disordered Eating & Eating Disorders
4) Integrative & Functional Medicine
5) Extended Care Settings
6) Diabetes Care
7) Oncology Nutrition Care
8) Nephrology Care
9) Pediatric Nutrition
10) Education of Dietetics Practitioners
11) Sports Dietetics
12) Management of Food & Nutrition Systems
13) Nutrition Support
14) Behavioral Health Care

Career Development Guide

Competent
A dietetics practitioner who has just obtained RD or RDN/DTR status, starting in an employment situation as a professional, and gains on the job skills as well as tailored continuing education to enhance proficiency and knowledge.

Proficient
A RD or RDN or DTR who is three plus years beyond entry into the profession, who has obtained operational job performance skills and is successful in the chosen focus area of practice.

Expert
A RD or RDN or DTR who is recognized within the profession and has mastered the highest degree of skill in or knowledge of a certain focus or generalized area of dietetics.
**Specialist**

**Definition:** A practitioner who demonstrates additional knowledge, skills and experience in a focus area of dietetics practice by the attainment of a credential.

**Rationale:** The term specialist requires a credential.

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**Advanced Practice**

**Definition:** The practitioner demonstrates a high level of skills, knowledge and behaviors. The individual exhibits a set of characteristics that include leadership and vision and demonstrates effectiveness in planning, evaluating and communicating targeted outcomes.

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**Let’s review**

DTR Scope of Practice
DTR Scope of Practice

DTRs may practice only in areas in which they are qualified and demonstrate competence in delivery of food and nutrition services.

DTR Scope of Practice

Work under the supervision of the RD or RDN:
- Direct patient/client nutrition care

Work independently:
- Provide general nutrition education to healthy individuals
- Consult with food service business and industry
- Conduct nutrient analysis
- Collect data and conduct research
- Manage food and nutrition services in a variety of settings

Supervision Defined

What is meant by “under the supervision of the RD or RDN”?
- The RD or RDN is ultimately accountable and responsible for the nutrition care of patients/clients in various health-care settings and social services programs
- Direct or Indirect supervision
DTR Scope of Practice

Direct Patient/Client Nutrition Care
- RDs or RDNs supervise the nutrition care provided by DTRs
- Supervision of the DTR is determined by:
  - Medical complexity of the patient/client
  - DTR's experience and demonstrated, documented competence
  - State dietetics/nutritionist practice act and statutory scope of practice (if defined)
  - Rules which may define supervision (direct or indirect)

DTR Scope of Practice

DTRs participate in the Nutrition Care Process:
- Assist RD or RDN with data collection
- Assist with development of nutrition-related priorities, goals and objectives; participate as assigned
- Implement nutrition interventions and education as assigned by the RD or RDN
- Complete, document, and report the results and observations of patient/client monitoring activities as assigned by the RD or RDN

Scope of Practice Resources

- Scope of Practice Decision Tool
- Definition of Terms
How do you know you are competent to do what you’ve been asked to do?

Are you trying to change practice areas?

✓ Use the Scope of Practice Decision Tool to assess your competence

Scope of Practice Decision Tool

- An online, interactive tool
- Permits the individual RD or RDN and DTR to answer a series of questions
- Determines if a particular activity is within his or her scope of practice

Locate the Decision Tool at www.eatright.org/shop, under Quality Management

Definition of Terms List

- An alphabetical cross-referenced list of terms
  - Members: www.eatright.org/scope
  - Non-members: Health Professionals Web page
    - Resources for Health Practitioners
      www.eatright.org/HealthProfessionals/content.aspx?id=6866
Let's analyze activities that an individual RD or RDN or DTR use to verify his/her scope of practice!

Case Scenario #1

A Registered Dietitian would like to screen for swallowing difficulty.
The Registered Dietitian...
- Practices and is licensed in Hawaii
- Has a Master's of Science in Nutrition
- Has been practicing in nutrition support for 10 years and is a Certified Nutrition Support Clinician (CNSC)
- Reviewed the Standards of Practice and Standards of Professional Performance for RDs in Nutrition Support and assesses herself to be at the Expert level of practice
- Reviewed her organization protocols and policies which allow a pathway for the RD to screen for swallowing difficulties if the Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) is not available
- Has been trained by the SLP
- Ensures the SLP assesses her competence to screen for swallowing difficulties annually

Case Scenario #2

A Dietetic Technician, Registered would like to teach carbohydrate counting to inpatients of an acute care facility
The Dietetic Technician, Registered ...
- Practices in Hawaii under the supervision of a RD
- Holds an Associate Degree and has been practicing in acute care for 20 years
- The RD assesses the DTR to be competent to educate in carbohydrate counting annually
- Understands the Scope of Practice in Nutrition Care for RDs and DTRs
- Organization policies and the DTR's job description includes the DTR in providing basic inpatient nutrition education
Conclusion

• Become familiar with the Comprehensive Scope of Practice Resources for the RD or RDN and for the DTR

• Complete self-assessment of knowledge, skills and competence level by using the Scope of Practice Decision Tool

• Assess and document your own practice to ensure quality, competent care

Thank you!

Questions?