 Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Academy Scope of Practice:

**A Tool for Determining Competence and Advancing Practice**

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Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

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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

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Just released!

Published online in the *Journal*- March 2013

- *Comprehensive Scope of Practice Resource for the RD or RDN*
- *Comprehensive Scope of Practice Resource for the DTR*



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**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



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**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.

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**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

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## Resource Components

Let's Review!



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## Scope of Practice in Nutrition and Dietetics



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## 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

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RD or RDN Scope of Practice 

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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

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RD or RDN Scope of Practice 

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

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RD or RDN Scope of Practice 

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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)

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**RD or RDN Scope of Practice**  Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

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

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**RD or RDN Scope of Practice**  Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

- 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

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**Let's Review**  Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Revised 2012 Standards of Practice in Nutrition Care and Standards of Professional Performance



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### SOP and SOPP

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

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### 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

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### 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

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**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

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**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



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**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



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### 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

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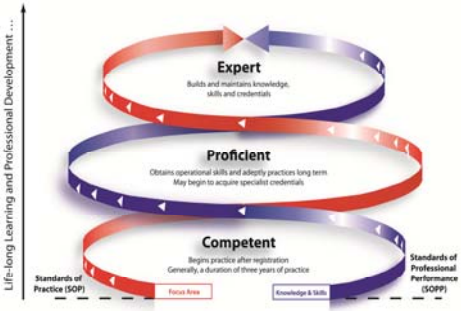
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### Career Development Guide



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### Career Development Guide Definitions

**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

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## 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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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### 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)

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### 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

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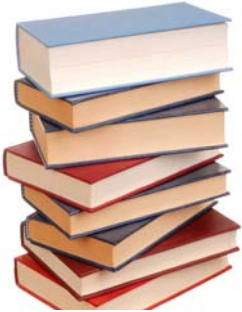
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### Scope of Practice Resources



- Scope of Practice Decision Tool
- Definition of Terms

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### Scope of Practice Resources

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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



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### Scope of Practice Resources

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#### 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](http://www.eatright.org/shop) , under Quality Management

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### Scope of Practice Resources

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#### Definition of Terms List

- An alphabetical cross-referenced list of terms
  - Members- [www.eatright.org/scope](http://www.eatright.org/scope)
  - Non-members- Health Professionals Web page
    - Resources for Health Practitioners [www.eatright.org/HealthProfessionals/content.aspx?id=6866](http://www.eatright.org/HealthProfessionals/content.aspx?id=6866)



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### Scope of Practice Decision Tool

Let's analyze activities that an individual RD or RDN or DTR use to verify his/her scope of practice!



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### 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

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### 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

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**Conclusion**  Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

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- 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

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**Thank you!**  Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

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**Questions?**

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