
 Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Consumer Protection: It's Our Priority

Hawai'i Dietetic Association


Amy Tousman, MPH, RDN, LD, CDE
Consumer Protection Coordinator

 Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Objectives

- **Understand the importance of individual responsibility, with regard to public safety.**
- **Describe the process for collecting and reporting incidents of unsafe practice.**
- **Share the Academy's messages related to Consumer Protection and Licensure**

2

Consumer Protection Coordinator  Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Consumer Protection Coordinator (CPC)

- Part of HDA Public Policy Panel
- Resource on licensure statute and regulations
- Licensure liaison between DOH and HDA
- Monitors consumer protection issues and their relationship to state licensure laws and state regulations, with SPR and SRS

3

The Academy Supports Public Health eat right. Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Vision: Optimizing health through food and nutrition


Mission: Empowering members to be food and nutrition leaders

Licensure is vital to achieving the Academy's vision and mission for its members

4

Why is Dietetics Licensure Important? eat right. Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

- Supports consumer protection
 - Consumers need ethical, high quality, evidence-based care provided by professionals who are trained consistently and whose practice has proven outcomes
- Requires minimum standards and qualifications are met




5

Licensure Impacts All of Us eat right. Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

- Access to quality health care
 - Enables others to have confidence in the dietetics profession. This includes
 - Consumers
 - Employers
 - Insurers
 - Other health professionals


Licensure is important for insurance coverage and access to many government programs

6

State Regulation Helps Consumers  Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics


- Establishes a governing body to:
 - oversee the practice of the profession
 - work in the best interest of consumers
- Empowers consumer by providing
 - a place to report harm
 - a mechanism to remove unsafe or incompetent practitioners (this includes RDNs!)

7

Challenges to Current Environment  Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

- Opposition to the general concept of licensing professions
- State budgets are tight – elimination of regulatory boards seen as option to save money
- Competing licensed professionals want to do more nutrition
- Competing unlicensed practitioners want to do full scope of nutrition services without oversight

8

Vigilance is Key:  Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Past legislation:

- Chiropractors-clinical nutrition-2011
- Physician Task Force

Recent Threats:

- Michigan-Licensure law repealed in 2014
- Illinois-CNS's added during sunset
- Texas-unsuccessful attempt to repeal

9

Ethics – Everyone’s Responsibility  Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

- Academy is committed to public safety
- Upholding ethics and standards of the profession is everyone’s responsibility
- RDs agree to abide by the code of ethics during registration process

10

Public Safety is Everyone’s Kuleana  Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

If You See Something Say Something

“The dietetics practitioner considers the health, safety and welfare of the public at all times.

The dietetics practitioner will report inappropriate behavior or treatment of a client by another dietetics practitioner or other professionals.”

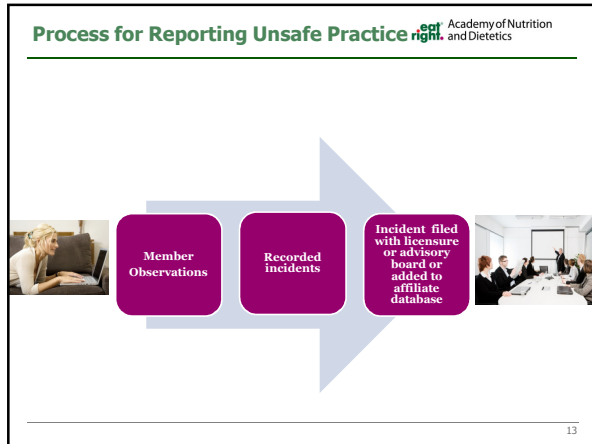
ADA/CDR Code of Ethics for the Profession of Dietetics and Process for Consideration of Ethics Issues; Journal of the American Dietetic Association; 2009; pg. 1461


We all need to be ambassadors for public safety!

Three New Reporting Tools  Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

- 1. Process For Reporting Unsafe Practice**
- 2. State Reporting Scenarios**
- 3. Collection of Successes and Unique Skills (Messaging)**

12




Accurate and Specific Documentation  Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

-Reports should be specific in nature and must be **observed directly** by the individual filing the report (the RDN or the person who was harmed).

All reports should include specific documentation:

- Keep name of individual who was impacted by the unsafe practice on file, but don't submit it to HDA Database.
- Name, qualifications and credentials of individual who provided the nutrition services
- Details of health status both before and after services provided

14


Documentation Form for HDA Members  Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics


•HDA's PPP developed a form for Hawaii's RDN's to Report Adverse Effects/potential Harm

<http://eatrighthawaii.org/documentation-of-adverse-effectspotential-harm/>

Harm6Q

15

STATE REPORTING SCENARIOS  Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics		
Hawaii (Title Act only) Reporting Scenarios:	Report to HDA Database	Report To State Regulating Agency (OHCA)
Using the title "Licensed Dietitian" without a license Ex: Holistic practitioner who advertises themselves as being a Licensed Dietitian	Yes Web link, print ads, literature	Yes Weblink, print ads, literature
Members of professions who provide MNT services outside their scope of practice (e.g, nurses, personal trainers, chiropractors, pharmacists, etc) Ex: Personal trainer provides nutrition counseling to a client after bariatric surgery.	Yes Weblink, print ads, literature	No


Everyone's Responsibility  Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

We can't own the world of nutrition, but we are obliged to protect it from misuse.

Additional places where RDN's without a Licensure Board can report unsafe practices:

- State Attorney Generals Office
- Hawaii Medical Board
- DCCA-Office of Consumer Protection

20

 Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Message

Everyone's Responsibility:  Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

**Advocate for your profession!
Building effective relationships is key!**




- Offer to participate in meetings with legislators
- Provide Education about the value of RDNs
- Ensure the protection of the public
- Support bills of others

22


Leading Out Loud  Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

- **Build trust and credibility**
- **Focus on credibility and expertise**
 - **People trust the messenger before the message**
 - **Demonstrate your passion, values, principles**

Next steps:  Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Collection of Successes and Unique skills


- **RDN provided a positive medical outcome**
- Medication errors or drug-nutrient interactions identified by RDN and corrected.
- **RDN saved a consumer, insurance company, or state money or by providing cost-effective care.**
- Demonstrate how we are effectively working with other professions, organizations, and community members

 Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

MNT by RDNs is Cost Effective


- For every dollar invested in an RDN-led lifestyle modification program there was a return of \$14.58. [\[1\]](#)
- 8.6% reduction in hospital utilization and a 16.9% reduction in physician visits associated with RDN-provided MNT for patients with cardiovascular disease.
- 9.5% reduction in hospital utilization and a 23.5% reduction in physician visits when MNT was provided to persons with diabetes mellitus. [\[2\]](#)

[\[1\]](#) Wolf AM, Crowther JQ, Nadler JL, Bonbjerg VE. The return on investment of a lifestyle intervention: The ICAN Program. Accepted for presentation at the American Diabetes Association 69th Scientific Sessions (169-OR), June 7, 2009, New Orleans, LA.
[\[2\]](#) Johnson R. The Lewin Group — What does it tell us, and why does it matter? *J Am Diet Assoc* 1999;99:426-427.

 Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Delivering Key Messages

- Use real life examples of success stories
- Give stakeholders **something to BE FOR!**
- Package the information in a way that helps the issue come to life and become relevant
- Use statistics



 Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Consumer Protection: It's Our Priority

Thank you!

If you have questions contact:
Amy Tousman, MPH, RDN, LD, CDE
Consumer Protection Coordinator
tousman@hawaii.edu
(808) 398-3813
