
 Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Consumer Protection: It's Our Priority

Hawai'i Dietetic Association


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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

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Consumer Protection Coordinator

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

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The Academy Supports Public Health

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

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Why is Dietetics Licensure Important?

- **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



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Licensure Impacts All of Us

- **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


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State Regulation Helps Consumers

- 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!)


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Challenges to Current Environment

- 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

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Vigilance is Key:


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

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Ethics – Everyone’s Responsibility

- 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

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Public Safety is Everyone’s Kuleana

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!

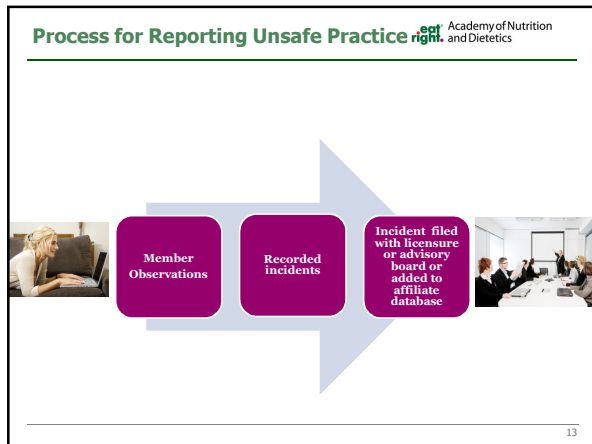
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Three New Reporting Tools

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

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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

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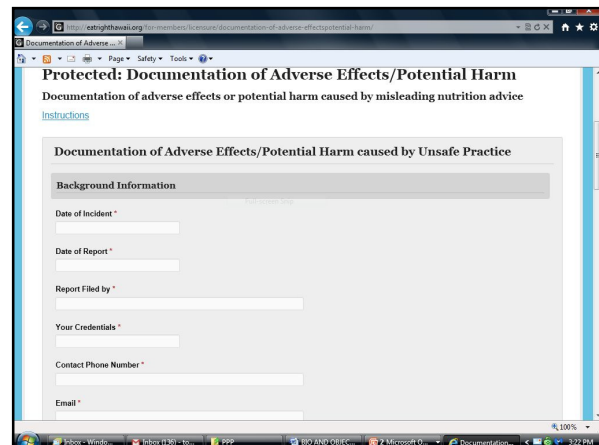
Documentation Form for HDA Members Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

•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

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Form for Reporting Unsafe Practice Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Adverse Effects/Potential Harm Report

1. Type of Adverse Effect and/or Potential Harm: *

Check all that apply:

Adverse Health Events Falsely Claimed Credentials

Financial Inaccurate or Misleading Information

Questionable Tests Other, please specify below:

2. Source of Adverse Effect and/or Potentially Harmful Nutritional Advice: *

Check all that apply:

Chiropractor Dietitian

Health Coach Health Food Store Personnel

Naturopath Nutritionist

Personal Trainer Other, please specify below:

3. Describe the adverse event or potential harm that occurred: *

100%

Form for Reporting Unsafe Practice Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

4. What was the outcome of this incident? *

Additional Medical Care

Death

Disability

Hospitalization

Potential Harm: harm could have been done, but health professional or dietitian convinced client to stop using product or disregard harmful advice

Side Effects

Wasted Money

Other, please specify below:

5. In the event we go to the legislature in the future to advocate for changes in our licensure law, would you be willing to submit testimony about this incident? *

Yes

No


Not sure

6. In the event we go to the legislature in the future to advocate for changes in our licensure law, would the patient/consumer be willing to submit testimony about this incident? *

Yes


No

Not sure

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STATE REPORTING SCENARIOS

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

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Everyone’s Responsibility

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

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The Message

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Everyone’s Responsibility:

**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

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Leading Out Loud

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

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Next steps:

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

MNT by RDNs is Cost Effective Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

- 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.

Delivering Key Messages Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

- 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



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Thank you!

If you have questions contact:

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