

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING DETAILS

When: Monday October 29, 2018
Location: Best Western Plus, 1715 Wellington
Time: 6:00pm

Once the College AGM has been adjourned, there will be a retirement reception for Michelle. Colleagues and former members are invited to attend.

An official notice of meeting and agenda was sent out October 3rd.

Please RSVP by October 25, 2018

We will also be launching our new website at the AGM!



New Website Soon to Launch

The College will officially launch its new website at the Annual General Meeting. With a new website comes a new address. Our future website address will be **www.collegeofdietitiansmb.ca**. This address was chosen to follow the same format as other dietetic and health regulatory bodies in Canada.

Email address for the College have also changed as follows:

- ✉ Shaunda Durance-Tod RD
registrar@collegeofdietitiansmb.ca
- ✉ Heidi Wong RD
profpractice@collegeofdietitiansmb.ca
- ✉ Sandra Bains
office@collegeofdietitiansmb.ca



DUTY TO REPORT

Through the course of your practice, you may come across situations that place the public at risk of harm. These situations could involve another dietitian, other health care professionals or the general public. As registered dietitians, we have an ethical and legal responsibility to report such situations, as outlined in *The Registered Dietitians Act* as well as our Code of Ethics. ^{1,2}

Our Code of Ethics also states that dietitians have a responsibility to bring forward concerns about unsafe or unethical conduct by other health care professionals to the appropriate provincial regulatory body. ²

The Protection for Persons in Care Act and *Child and Family Services Act* have sections describing the reporting responsibilities in all health care professionals. ^{3,4} A description of dietitians' reporting responsibilities can be found in the College of Dietitians of Manitoba document *Duty to Report—Legislative Requirements* (available on the members only side of the CDM website under P & P and Practice Directions).

SCENARIO 1:

A colleague recently confided to me that she has a problem with alcohol and has arrived at work still intoxicated but stated "once I get coffee in me – I'm good to do."

While it is certainly a difficult situation to report a co-worker, the dietitian arriving at work still intoxicated, with the intention to providing care, is clearly placing the client at risk of harm. This dietitian's actions should be reported to the Registrar as well as the employer.

Continued on page 3

Q. What will happen to me if I report this?

A. The Act provides protection for those who report.⁵

Q. What will happen to this dietitian?

A. Each employer has their own policies for dealing with this type of incident. The information reported to the Registrar of the College of Dietitians of Manitoba will be forwarded to the Complaints Committee.

SCENARIO 2:

I recently overheard one of the other allied health professionals talking to a patient in a very “unprofessional” manner. He was yelling and swearing at this patient and was upset that she was not doing what he planned for her to do that morning. When this person saw me outside the patient’s room he said, “My wife and I have been arguing a lot lately – guess I’m not quite myself today.” The patient seemed shaken when I spoke to her a few minutes later.

This would be an example of professional misconduct due to difficulties at home carrying over into the work environment. Dietitians have a professional responsibility to bring forward any concerns about unethical practice by other health care professionals to their provincial regulatory body. This person should also be reported to the employer.

SCENARIO 3:

I work in a rural hospital and went to see an elderly gentleman admitted this morning from the nursing home next door. During the course of our conversation, this man revealed that he has been giving fairly large sums of money to one of his regular visitors at the nursing home as “she has been having a hard time and tells me when she needs a little extra cash”. He says he knows he shouldn’t give her this much money but he enjoys the visits and has no family left in town to come and see him regularly. I know this man doesn’t have a lot of money and feels this visitor is taking of him. Should I report it and who do I report to?

According to Manitoba’s *Protection for Persons in Care Act* you are required to report any suspected abuse immediately.³ There is a confidential toll-free number for reporting. If you are unsure if the matter should be reported you can call the Protection for Persons in Care office for assistance. No actions will be taken against you for reporting suspected abuse unless it is found that a false report was made intentionally. The Protection for Persons in Care office will investigate the matter.

Without a doubt, these are difficult situations. However, our professional responsibilities are clearly outlined in the Code of Ethics and several pieces of legislation. The clients best interest is always our primary professional obligation.

REFERENCES:

1. Province of Manitoba. *The Registered Dietitians Act*. Winnipeg: 2002. Section 64(1)
2. College of Dietitians of Manitoba. *Code of Ethics for Registered Dietitians*. Winnipeg:2005
3. Province of Manitoba. *Protection for Persons in Care Act*. Winnipeg: 2000.
4. Province of Manitoba. *Child and Family Services Act*. Winnipeg: 1985.
5. Province of Manitoba. *The Registered Dietitians Act*. Winnipeg: 2002. Section 64(2).

IF IN DOUBLE, CALL THE COLLEGE. The College strives to support RDs in all areas of dietetic practice. If you have any questions or concerns about practice issues, please feel free to contact Heidi Wong RD (Professional Practice Coordinator) at the College at 204-694-0532 or by email at profpractice@collegeofdietitiansmb.ca. Knowing your questions can concerns will assist the College in preparing future education materials, such as those found in this newsletter.

Virtual Practice

With advances in technology, virtual practice is becoming increasingly popular both within and outside of Manitoba. Virtual Practice is defined as the provision of dietetic services (e.g., counselling, consultation, monitoring, teaching, etc.) which involves any type of intervention with a client who is remotely located from the dietitian providing the service. It can include telephone, videoconferencing, email, apps, web-based communications and wearable technology. Virtual practice can occur within a jurisdiction (i.e., telehealth) and also across borders within Canada.

This type of care certainly has advantages for those in rural and remote locations, those with mobility issues and/or those who simply prefer the convenience of this type of service. As a result of this trend, the College receives many inquiries from dietitians within and outside Manitoba regarding virtual practice.

While virtual practice can be a valuable tool in dietetic practice, there are several factors to consider when incorporating these tools into dietetic practice.

Jane is a dietitian working remotely for a private health care corporation located outside of Manitoba. Her area of expertise is weight management and she is part of a multidisciplinary team including physicians, nurses, physiotherapists and mental health professionals. Jane is registered in good standing with the College of Dietitians of Manitoba.

Jane's practice is entirely "virtual" using a teleconferencing program, provided by her employer. Jane's clients can reside in any province. She does not provide care to client that resides outside of Canada.

What are Jane's professional responsibilities when practicing virtually?

Duty to Clients

The same standards of care exist whether care is provided virtually or in person. For example, Jane must obtain informed consent, must ensure confidentiality of client information and if she feels that it would be in the clients best interest to have care provided in person, must refer to another dietitian. Services must not be exempted by obtaining releases or disclaimers from the client.

With respect to virtual practice, both RDs and clients should recognize that any information relayed over the internet is never 100% secure. Clients must understand the security issues of transmitting personal health information over the phone or internet as well as the measures that will be taken to protect their personal health information. The use of a unique password logins for online counselling is a best practice for preserving privacy.

Registration Requirements:

As Jane is practicing across provincial borders, she must contact the dietetic regulatory body in the province where the client resides to determine if registration is required. In some provinces, registration is required to provide care virtually, even if the dietitian is registered in another province. The table on page 6 outlines the registration requirements for virtual practice across Canada.

Liability Insurance

In Manitoba, liability insurance is required for all dietitians "engaged in the practice of dietetics." Jane must contact her insurance provider to determine if her coverage includes virtual practice, as well as practice outside of Manitoba.

Jane also practices in a fee-for-service setting and insurance providers may have different policies/criteria for reimbursement if the service is provided by a dietitian who is registered in a different province than the province where the client resides. Jane must encourage her clients to confirm their insurance coverage prior to delivering the service.

Continued on page 5

Transparency

Jane must inform clients that she is registered with the College of Dietitians of Manitoba and that any concerns about her conduct can be made to this regulatory body.

Use of Title

Jane should use the title “dietitian” to provide to her clients, since designations differ from province to province. For example, the titles “registered nutritionist”, “registered dietitian” and “dietitian” are protected in Alberta. Whereas, in Manitoba, “registered nutritionist” is not a protected title. The title “dietitian” is consistently protected across Canada and use of other titles may cause confusion with respect to the dietitians professional status.

Note that the information is in this table only applied to dietitians who are currently fully licensed and in good standing with a Canadian dietetic regulatory body. This table is current as of January 2018. As the information may change, dietitians are advised to confirm registration requirements, and any restrictions on scope of practice, in the jurisdiction where the client resides.

Province	Registration Required	Other Regulatory Requirements
British Columbia	Yes	A dietitian registered in another province who provides virtual dietetic services to BC residents must be registered in BC.
Alberta	Yes	A dietitian registered in another province who provides virtual dietetic services to AB residents must be registered in AB.
Saskatchewan	No	A dietitian registered in another province who provides virtual dietetic services to SK residents must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. disclose where they are registered to the SK client B. inform the SDA they are providing virtual dietetic services in SK, and C. become familiar with SK laws, regulations, standards and code of ethics.
Manitoba	No	A dietitian registered in another province who provides virtual dietetic services to MB residents must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. have successfully completed the CDRE, B. contact CDM prior to providing services and C. disclose where they are registered to the MB client.
Ontario	NO	If a dietitian is physically located outside of Ontario and providing virtual dietetic services to ON residents, the CDO advises the dietitian: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. disclose to their client they are not registered as a dietitian in ON, and B. become familiar with ON laws, regulations, standards and guidelines.
Quebec	No	If a dietitian is physically located outside of Québec and providing virtual dietetic services to QC residents, the College advises the dietitian: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. disclose to their clients they are not registered as a dietitian in QC. B. become familiar with QC laws, regulations, standards and guidelines.
New Brunswick	No	A dietitian registered in another province who provides virtual dietetic services to NB residents must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. disclose where they are registered to the NB client, B. inform the College prior to providing virtual dietetic services in NB, and C. adhere to NBAD laws, regulations, standards and code of ethics.
Nova Scotia	No	If a dietitian is physically located outside of Nova Scotia and providing virtual dietetic services to Nova Scotia residents, the College advises the dietitian: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. disclose to their client they are not registered as a dietitian in Nova Scotia B. become familiar with Nova Scotia laws, regulations, standards and guidelines.
PEI	Yes	A dietitian registered in another province who provides virtual dietetic services to PEI
Newfoundland and Labrador	No	If a dietitian is physically located outside of NL and providing virtual dietetic services to NL residents, the College advises the dietitian: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. disclose to their client they are not registered as a dietitian in NL, and B. become familiar with NL laws, regulations, standards and guidelines.

Virtual Practice—FAQ



Q. How do I know if my clients will receive reimbursement from their third party insurance provider, if I am not registered in the jurisdiction where my client resides?

A. You don't. It is the responsibility of each client to check the details of their policy and determine if they have coverage for nutrition counselling, provided through a virtual platform, by a dietitian registered in another province. However, dietitians do have a responsibility to inform their clients of all fee for service and available methods of payment prior to providing any service. As well, dietitians must advise their clients to check the details of their policies prior to providing service.

Q. I am registered in Manitoba and offer "virtual" counselling through my private practice. I have been approached by a client who resides in BC. Do I need to be registered in BC in order to provide care to this client?

A. According to the table on page 6—yes. You will need to get in touch with the College of Dietitians of British Columbia for further information.

Q. I work in the pediatric renal program at Children's Hospital. I occasionally provide care to children from North-western Ontario. Do I need to be registered in Ontario in order to provide care to these children?

A. If you are providing care to a client who is physically located in Manitoba, you do not need to be registered in the client's home province.

Q. In my practice, I routinely provide follow-up care, over the phone, to clients from Saskatchewan and Ontario. Do I need to be registered in these provinces in order to provide this care?

A. No. RDs occasionally provide follow up care to clients who have received care in Manitoba but return home to a neighbouring province after discharge or between visits. In the interest of continuity of care, the College of Dietitians of Ontario and Saskatchewan Dietitians Association have agreed that in this circumstance, registration in their jurisdiction is not required.

Q. I have liability insurance through Dietitians of Canada. As DC is a national organization, can I assume that I am covered for virtual practice?

A. You must check with your liability insurance provider to determine if you are covered for virtual practice.

Q. I have liability insurance through my employer. Am I covered for virtual practice, across provinces, if it is part of my job?

A. You must check with your liability insurance provider to determine if you are covered for virtual practice.

Q. I am a graduate dietitian, working for a rural health authority. Can I provide follow up care via telehealth to my clients?

A. Graduate Dietitians employed by a regional health authority may provide care virtually.

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