

## IT'S RENEWAL SEASON

It is that time of year in which renewal of your dietitian license with the College of Dietitians of Manitoba for 2019 is due. Renewal instructions were sent out by email on January 28, 2019.

The instructions describe how to login to the new website to complete your renewal, including username and passwords. ***If you haven't received your instructions, please contact the College.***

### **Adjusted Hours:**

During the last week of renewal, our office will be open Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm. We recommend that you complete your renewal by March 29 at 5:00pm to ensure someone is here to answer your questions and assist in case of issues arising at the last minute.

### **Important Renewal Information:**

The deadline for renewal is March 31, midnight. Under *The Registered Dietitians Act*, a completed renewal is defined as:

- Completing the legal activity declaration (under the renewal section of your profile)
- Completed continuing competence submission
- Full payment of fees by March 31, 2019
- Verification of custodian, if you are in private practice.

### **How to submit your completed CC activities:**

This new website requires members to **submit** their Continuing Competence activities rather than just entering them for the College to access during renewal. Once you are ready to send in your completed Continuing Competence submission, please press the **SUBMIT** button located at the bottom of the page.

## Conflict of Interest

Conflicts of interest can be difficult to recognize, as they can occur in a wide variety of circumstances. A conflict of interest occurs when, in the mind of a reasonable person, a dietitian has a personal interest that could improperly influence their professional judgment. Another way to describe conflict of interest would be when a dietitian puts their own interests, ahead of the needs of their clients. In some circumstances, the conflict of interest can be managed by providing disclosure, options and reassurance; while others must be avoided entirely.

Conflict of Interest is addressed in our Code of Ethics as follows:

*7.3 The dietitian should avoid real or perceived conflict of interest in which her or his professional judgement could be compromised. When circumstances make it impossible to avoid a conflict of interest it shall be disclosed to the client.*

*7.4 The dietitian shall not sell or promote any product, or act as an agent for the sale or promotion of any product, in such a manner as to mislead or create a false impression.*

Most conflicts of interest arise when a person stands to profit personally by promoting a competing interest. However, a conflict of interest can also occur when the interests of friends, relatives or other business associates are promoted.

Examples of situations with *potential* for conflict of interest include:

- Receiving a benefit from a supplier—This could range from small gifts such as pens or a box of chocolates to larger gifts such as vacations. Many organizations have policies in place related to these types of gifts. The question that will arise is whether the gifts will influence purchasing decisions made by the dietitian. If acceptable within organizational guidelines, smaller gifts may be acceptable but should be made available to all staff. Larger gifts, however, could certainly be perceived as influencing decisions and should be avoided.
- Selling products for profit—Selling nutritional products requires caution. Dietitians must always ensure that the products are evidence-based. Clients should be informed that the product is sold for profit and that they should feel free to shop around. Dietitians could also provide direction as to other locations where the products are available. Clients should also be reassured that their care will not be affected should they choose to purchase the products elsewhere.
- Referrals for profit—For example, referring a client to a business establishment owned by a member of the dietitian's family. This could include grocery stores, restaurants, supplement suppliers, etc. The dietitian should disclose that the business is owned by family, and again, the client must be aware of alternatives and that the clients choice regarding which businesses to shop or purchase meals at will not influence the care provided by the dietitian.<sup>1</sup>

### Multi-Disciplinary Clinics

Multi-disciplinary clinics provide settings where members of several different professions work together in one location. Cross-referrals between professionals are common. However, similar to the above situations, clients must be aware of alternatives and reassured that their choice will not affect care. Dietitians must also ensure that any shared advertising adheres to the [CDMs Code of Ethics](#) and [Practice Direction: Advertising, Sales, Testimonials and Incentives](#). For more information on Conflict of Interest, please see Chapter 10 of the [Professional Practice Handbook](#).

# Some Reminders



## Liability Insurance

At renewal time, the College usually receives questions regarding liability insurance. Our legislation states that all dietitians that are engaged in the practice of dietetics are required to have and maintain liability insurance in the amount of \$5 000 000.

There are two situations that tend to lead to questions regarding liability insurance:

### 1. Nutrition related activities, outside of employment

If you have liability insurance through your employer, you would need to check with your employer/ insurance provider to determine if you are covered for any nutrition-related activities that you would be doing outside of your employment, for example volunteer work.

### 2. How do I know if I am “engaged in the practice of dietetics?”

We have a statement in legislation that describes the “practice of dietetics”.

*The practice of dietetics means the translation and application of scientific knowledge of foods and human nutrition through*

- (a) *assessment, design, implementation and evaluation of nutritional interventions;*
- (b) *integration of food and nutrition principles in the management of food service systems; and*
- (c) *dissemination of information to attain, maintain, promote and protect the health of individuals, groups and the community.*

This statement is very broad, however, does provide guidance with respect to what should be considered when deciding whether you are “engaged in the practice of dietetics”. For example, are you providing nutrition advice to the general public? Consider all possible avenues of providing this type of information, such as online through social media or blogs, writing articles for other organizations, advice provided in a volunteer capacity, etc.

It really is up to each RD to establish if they are “engaged in the practice of dietetics”, as you will know best what is involved in your day to day tasks. If you have any questions about the requirement for liability insurance or would like further information, please contact the College. If you have questions about what is and is not included in your policy, it is best to contact your insurance provider.

For more information, please see Chapter 10 of the [Professional Practice Handbook](#).

*More reminders can be found on the next page*

IF IN DOUBT, 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 694-0532 or via email [profpractice@collegeofdietitiansmb.ca](mailto:profpractice@collegeofdietitiansmb.ca) Knowing your questions and concerns will assist the College in preparing future education materials, such as those found in this newsletter.



## *Reminders continued...*

### **Reserved Acts Consultation Survey**

The College recently sent out a consultation survey for the Reserved Acts within the *Regulated Health Professions Act*. We are consulting with members regarding which of the reserved acts apply to dietetic practice and are currently being performed by RDs in Manitoba.

We have discussed the reserved acts at the AGM as well as during individual and group meetings with dietitians over the past several years. However, practice evolves and we are asking now that you review the complete list to ensure nothing has been overlooked. It is very important that we have your feedback in order to move forward with this legislation.

Please complete the survey by March 15, 2019. If you have any questions, or would like further information, please contact Heidi Wong at [profpractice@collegeofdietitiansmb.ca](mailto:profpractice@collegeofdietitiansmb.ca).

### **Custodian Confirmation**

All dietitians who have identified themselves in private practice, and maintain client health records were sent an email requesting verification of their custodian.

If you haven't replied to this email, please contact the College. Verifying your custodian is a registration requirement and therefore, this information must be provided to the College by March 31, 2019 to ensure that your registration is complete and is not subject to any late fees.

Thank you to all those who attended the Annual General Meeting!

Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting and Presentation Slides  
can now be found on the CDM website at [www.collegeofdietitiansmb.ca](http://www.collegeofdietitiansmb.ca) > Members Portal > News

The College would like to take this opportunity to wish all Manitoba dietitians a Happy Dietitians Day, which is on March 20th.

Happy  
Dietitians  
Day