

INDEX NO: Practice Direction 16.0
SUBJECT: Electronic Practice 16.9
APPROVAL BY COUNCIL: September 27, 2017
UPDATE: January 18, 2017

Definition

Electronic practice is defined as the provision of dietetic service (e.g. counseling, providing information and advice) via internet, email, telephone, videoconference or other electronic means to the public and to individual clients, also referred to as patients. Electronic dietetic practice refers to communication with clients or patients using aforementioned mediums across provincial, territorial or national borders. Electronic dietetic practice does not refer to communication and consultation between dietitians or other health professionals across borders.

Practice Direction

Registration

Dietitians providing dietetic services by electronic means must be registered in good standing with a provincial dietetic regulatory body.

1. Dietitians registered with CDM who wish to provide dietetic services electronically to clients who reside outside of Manitoba:
 - must have successfully completed the Canadian Dietetic Registration Exam
 - must comply with the registration requirements and adhere to the scope of practice in the province where the client resides.
 - it is the RDs responsibility to check each provinces requirements with respect to registration requirements for electronic practice

EXCEPTIONS

- A. RDs occasionally provide follow up care to clients who have received care in Manitoba but return home to a neighboring 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 the above circumstance, registration in their jurisdictions is not required.
 - B. Also in the interest of continuity of care, Graduate Dietitians, employed by a regional health authority, may provide follow up care via telephone or internet, to clients in Saskatchewan, Ontario and Nunavut.
2. Dietitians registered with other provincial dietetic regulatory bodies who wish to provide dietetic services electronically to Manitobans:
 - must have successfully completed the Canadian Dietetic Registration Exam
 - must be a member in good standing of a dietetic regulatory body in the province that they (the RD) reside.
 - must contact CDM

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3. Dietitians that are not registered with a provincial regulatory body wishing to provide dietetic services electronically to Manitobans:
 - must contact CDM
 - registration may be required

Client Care

It is each dietitians responsibility to:

- carry professional liability insurance in the amount of \$5,000,000 and ensure that coverage includes electronic practice
- disclose to the client which regulatory body they are registered with, and inform the client that any complaints should be made to the regulatory body where the dietitian is registered
- Use the title "dietitian" in all communications with clients. Designations differ across Canada, but the title dietitian is consistent in all provinces. Use of other titles (i.e. nutritionist) may cause confusion for the general public.
- provide care in a manner consistent with the care that would be provided in-person. The same professional obligations that exist for consent, confidentiality and security of information in face-to-face dietetic services also exist for electronic dietetic services.
- disclose limitations and risks of electronic practice, such as, lack of face-to-face contact between practitioner and client, potential for breach of confidentiality, limited availability of assessment information