

# What happens to RDs who practice fewer than 500 hours over three years?

The new Registration Regulation requires that every member of the College holding a certificate of registration must practice for at least 500 hours in the preceding three years to maintain their certificate of registration. The purpose of this regulation is to make sure that members holding a certificate of registration are competent to practice. The law reads:

5. (1) By the end of the third year following the issuance of a certificate of registration and in every subsequent year, every member shall provide evidence satisfactory to the Registrar that the member has practised dietetics for at least 500 hours during the preceding three years.
- (2) The Registrar shall refer any member who does not meet the requirement set out in subsection (1) to the Quality Assurance Committee.

## HOW WILL THE RDS WITH FEWER THAN 500 HOURS OF PRACTICE BE IDENTIFIED?

They will be identified through the renewal process. RDs will be required to report the hours they have worked in the past year on their renewal form. The database will keep track of the hours reported in the last three years. The RDs with less than 500 hours of practice in the last

three years will be identified and referred to the QA committee.

Dietitians will also be asked to report on the activities they have undertaken to maintain their competence. The activities can be professional practice, volunteer and continuous learning activities as long as they relate to dietetics.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RDS WHO ARE REFERRED TO THE QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE FOR HAVING PRACTICED LESS THAN 500 HOURS IN THE PAST THREE YEARS?

They will be assessed to determine whether they have maintained the knowledge and skills necessary to practice dietetics safely and competently. The assessment must reasonably determine whether an RD is competent to practice dietetics or not.

To make this determination, the quality assurance assessment will consider practice hours, professional development and all volunteer activities related to dietetics. Terms, conditions and limitations will be placed on certificates of registration of RDs with fewer than 500 of practice unless they can demonstrate that they can offer competent and safe dietetic services.

## Special Announcement

### Recognition of Canadian and Australian Dietitians for Registration

CDO is pleased to announce that 9 of the 10 Canadian dietetic regulatory bodies have signed a recognition agreement with the *Dietetic Association of Australia*. This enables mobility of RDs between the two countries.

*Accredited Professional Dietitians* (APD) from Australia can obtain a Temporary Certificate of Registration and write the

*Canadian Dietetic Registration Examination* without having an education equivalency assessment. Canadian RDs can also write the Australian professional exam and become an APD without having an education equivalency assessment.

For more information, please contact Mary Lou Gignac, Registrar & ED.