

What should the public know?



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I would like to challenge you to put yourself in your clients' shoes or in the role of a parent or caregiver and ask yourself, "If I were my client, what would I want or expect to know about my Registered Dietitian?"

Transparency in providing information about health professionals is a high priority for health professions regulation and health care service delivery. The College is currently exploring what additional information about RDs should be made available online to the public on the Register of Dietitians. From the public's perspective, the central questions have always been "what would I need to know to make better choices about health professionals?" and "what should I know about my health professional to be as informed as possible in today's information rich society?" From a College perspective, we ask, "What should the public know that would inspire trust in the profession and in the organization that regulates Registered Dietitians?"

The College collects a lot more information than is currently available on the Register of Dietitians. The categories of information currently open to the public are: name and previous names of an RD, registration number and class of registration, languages of practice, employer information, College imposed term, conditions and limitations on practice, most voluntary undertakings with the College, referrals to and results of a discipline or incapacity hearing.

In March, the College will be circulating to members the new by-law provisions that would increase the amount of information placed on the Register of Dietitians. The by-law circulation will feature the current and proposed changes in full detail. Your input will be collected through an on-line survey. The proposed new information includes:

- Registration or licensure in another profession in Ontario and any profession outside of Ontario.
- Existing federal, provincial charges against a member or other offence that is relevant to suitability to practice dietetics.
- Bail conditions and conditions of parole relevant to ability to practice dietetics.
- Findings of guilt related to an offence or charge.
- Appointment of an investigator to look into a complaint or report about the member where there is compelling public interest to disclosure.
- Requirement to appear before the Inquiries Complaint and Reports Committee (ICRC) for an oral caution.
- Requirement by the ICRC to complete a *Specified Continuing Education and Remediation Plan*.
- A finding of malpractice.
- Similar information about referrals, findings, penalties and malpractice from registration/licensure in a profession outside of Ontario.

In the meantime, I would like to challenge you to put yourself in your clients' shoes or in the role of a parent or caregiver and ask yourself, "If I were my client, what would I want or expect to know about my Registered Dietitian?"