



## College Facebook User Guidelines

The College Facebook page will be moderated and monitored by the Communications Program Manager and the College's Professional Practice Advisors.

The following is a summary of proper usage and etiquette expected from the members of the College's Facebook page.

**Professional Misconduct:** Members are expected to behave professionally and courteously when participating on the College Facebook. Any member who contravenes Section 36 of the *Professional Misconduct Regulation* may be referred to the *Inquiries, Complaints and Report Committee* of the College for professional misconduct:

36. Engaging in conduct or performing an act that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional.

**Avoid Posting Personal Information.** Avoid sharing any personal health information that could be related to a client. Be aware that the College's Facebook page is public. Information is available to any person who views the page, and may be used by someone in a manner unintended by you. For that reason, we encourage you to set your Facebook privacy settings so that only 'friends' may view your profile and personal page.

**Use Professional Judgment to Evaluate the Information You Read On the Facebook Page Carefully.** Remember, opinions expressed by RDs are not the opinions of the College. You must evaluate the accuracy of, and risks associated with, the information posted by other RDs carefully before you rely on it for your practice. If you have any doubts about the reliability and validity of any information that has been posted, please contact the College before you apply it to your practice.

The College will monitor the Facebook page regularly and correct any misinformation which appears as quickly as possible.

**Respect Others:** This is really the bottom line. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." This includes refraining from using profanity or engaging in conduct that would be deemed inappropriate or unprofessional in real-life, face-to-face situations.

**Build Online Rapport:** In addition to mutual understanding, there will surely be conflicting points of view at times. Remember to respect the opinions of others. Part of what makes a good community is the ability to see different points of view. Those who foster goodwill will get more participation from others.

**SPAM:** Don't "spam" the Facebook page with multiple postings. Inappropriate messages, like advertising your business or products for sale will be removed.

**Contact the College:** If you have questions or concerns about the Facebook User Guidelines or any content you have read on the forum, please contact the College at: [practiceadvisor@collegeofdietitians.org](mailto:practiceadvisor@collegeofdietitians.org) or call 416-598-1725 /800-668-4990, ext. 397.

**Registered User Account, Password, and Security:** Users are responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of their Facebook user ID and password, and are fully responsible for all activities that occur under their account.

**Jurisdiction:** This Facebook page (excluding externally-linked sites) is controlled by the College of Dietitians of Ontario which is located in Toronto, Ontario. It can be accessed by the public and members of the College. The statutes and laws of Canada and the Province of Ontario apply.

**User Conduct:** You understand that all information posted by the users is the sole responsibility of the person from which such content originated. This means that you are held responsible for any comments or information that you post on this Facebook page. You agree to not use the service to:

- a. Upload or post any information or content that infringes any patent, trademark, trade secret, copyright or other proprietary rights ("Rights") of any party;
- b. Upload or post any unsolicited or unauthorized advertising, promotional materials, spam, or any other form of solicitation. (Posting the same message repeatedly can be considered "spam" or "spamming");
- c. Upload or post any Content that is unlawful, harmful, threatening, abusive, harassing, tortious, defamatory, vulgar, obscene, libelous, invasive of another's privacy, hateful, or racially, ethnically or otherwise objectionable;
- d. Impersonate any person or entity, including, but not limited to, an ACS official, forum leader, guide or host, or falsely state or otherwise misrepresent your affiliation with a person or entity;
- e. Forge or otherwise manipulate identifiers in order to disguise the origin of any information or content posted on the Forum;
- f. Intentionally or unintentionally violate any applicable local, state, national or international law;
- g. "Stalk" or otherwise harass another; or
- h. Harvest or otherwise collect or store personal data about other users.

You acknowledge that the College of Dietitians of Ontario and its designees shall have the right (but not the obligation) in their sole discretion to refuse, move, edit, or delete any information or content that is available on the Facebook page which contravenes any posting policy, professional conduct or law.

You acknowledge and agree that the College may preserve information or content and may also disclose information or content if required to do so by law or in the good faith belief that such preservation or disclosure is reasonably necessary to: (a) comply with legal process; (b) enforce the User Agreement; (c) respond to claims that any Content violates the rights of third-

parties; or (d) protect the rights, property, or personal safety of the College, forum users and the public.

**User Submissions:** By submitting information or content to the Facebook page where such content would be viewable by other users and by designated College staff, you agree that such a submission is non-confidential for the purposes of this forum.

**Modifications to the Service:** The College reserves the right at any time to modify or discontinue, temporarily or permanently, the Facebook page (or any part thereof) with or without notice. You agree that the College shall not be liable to you or to any third party for any modification, suspension, or discontinuance of the page.

**Termination:** You agree that the College, in its sole discretion, may remove and discard any content within the Facebook page, for any reason, including, without limitation, if the College believes that you have violated or acted inconsistently with the letter or spirit of this user agreement. You agree that any termination of your access may be effected without prior notice, and acknowledge and agree that the College may immediately remove or permanently ban you from accessing its Facebook page. Further, you agree that the College shall not be liable to you or for any termination of your access to the Facebook page.

**Professional Advice Disclaimer:** You acknowledge that the information on the Facebook page is provided "as is" for general information only. It should not be relied upon as a substitute for consultations with the College's Professional Practice Advisors, Quality Assurance (QA) Program Manager, Registrar & ED or counsel to address your individual professional situation, should the need arise.

**Limitation of Liability:** You agree that you will hold harmless the College and its officers, directors, employees, and volunteers from all claims arising out of or related to your access or use of, or your inability to access or use, the information contained in this Facebook page or any other information to which it is linked. This includes, but is not limited to, information or materials viewed or downloaded from the page. In no event will the College be liable to you or anyone else for any decision made or action taken by you in reliance on content or information posted on this Facebook page by the other members of this forum.

**Endorsements:** You acknowledge that the opinions and recommendations expressed by other RDs using this Facebook page are not necessarily those of the College or endorsed by the College. The College, through the Professional Practice Advisors, will provide responses and corrections to inaccurate information posted by RDs using this forum.

Links which are posted on the Facebook page to other websites or resources which are not under the control of College, are provided for convenience of reference only and are not intended as an endorsement by College of the organization or individual operating the website or a warranty of any type regarding the website or the information on the website.

**Usage of Content:** Unless otherwise indicated, all information contained on this Facebook page, is copyrighted by and proprietary to the College, and may not be copied, reproduced,

transmitted, displayed, performed, distributed, sublicensed, altered, stored for subsequent use or otherwise used in whole or in part in any manner without reference to the College.

The user may make a single copy of the information or content displayed on any the College's Facebook page to be used by the user for personal and noncommercial uses, provided that the user does not remove any trademarks, copyright and any other notice contained in such content.

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