

New Dietetic Competency Standard for Entry to Practice



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The Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice (PDEP) is comprised of the ten provincial regulatory bodies (the Alliance of Canadian Dietetic Regulatory Bodies), Dietitians of Canada and 32 academic and practical dietetic training programs across Canada. The Partnership undertakes projects in areas of common interest to benefit the safety and quality of dietetic services and the advancement of the dietetic profession in Canada.

The College of Dietitians of Ontario has now officially adopted the new *Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice* (ICDEP) as the competency standard for entry to practice in Ontario. The ICDEP mark a significant collaboration milestone in the history of dietetics in Canada. As the first intersectoral initiative of the *Partnership for Dietetics Education and Practice* (PDEP), the ICDEP were developed through a highly collaborative and iterative process involving RDs, dietetic education programs, Dietitians of Canada and the ten dietetic regulatory bodies across Canada.

The ICDEP articulate performance indicators for each of 30 practice competencies and sets out the broad knowledge base that is necessary to prepare learners to achieve the practice competencies at entry level proficiency. At this time, the ICDEP document represents the most comprehensive description of the knowledge, skills and judgment needed to practice dietetics safely and effectively in Canada. It is a tool that RDs as well as employers across Canada may use to guide role descriptions, job specifications and performance/quality assessment tools.

The new competencies do not change dietetic practice in Canada; they capture changes observed in dietetics practice at the entry level in all regions of the country, most notably in areas of clinical practice and in population and public health. They also provide a clearer description of the knowledge, skill and judgment needed for proficiency in carrying out each practice competency. Learners will be required to demonstrate each of the performance indicators associated with the competency statements. These performance indicators will be assessed in one, two or all three assessment venues: academic programs, practical education programs and the *Canadian Dietetic Registration Examination* (CDRE).

As of this Fall, the new competencies will be incorporated into education programs and subsequently, the CDRE beginning November 2014. Education program accreditation will also be based on ICDEP beginning in 2014.

The ICDEP document is available on the PDEP website at <http://www.pdep.ca>

The College of Dietitians of Ontario appreciates the efforts of literally thousands of RDs and acknowledges the leadership provided by PDEP in the creation of this important underpinning of dietetic education and practice in Canada.