



Two Important Changes in Registration Have an Impact on RDs

Carolyn Lordon RD
Registration Program Manager

1. REGISTER INFORMATION WILL BE ONLINE INDEFINITELY

Amendments to the *Regulated Health Professions Act* (RHPA) came in to effect June 4, 2009. Among these was an increase in the amount of information that health regulatory colleges are required to make available on their Register of Dietitians. The box on the right shows the information that must appear on the public Register of Dietitians. The new information is shown with red bullets.

The most significant change for Registered Dietitians is that their register information remains public even after they resign, retire or are suspended. In addition, the history of suspensions and findings in a hearing remains on record indefinitely.

Resigning from the College

It is extremely important to make sure that you notify the College of your intention to resign if you do not wish to renew your membership. As of June 4, 2009, the law requires the history of a member's registration status and activity to appear indefinitely on the public register, including any history of suspension or revocation of their certificate of registration.

The majority of the suspensions and revocations are for non-payment of fees, when members have moved out of the province or did not wish to renew their membership, and simply did not complete their annual renewal. This resulted in their suspension for non-payment of fees, and eventually the revocation of the member's certificate.

In the past, a member's non-disciplinary record was removed from the register if the member became inactive due to resignation, retirement, suspension or revocations. As of June 4, 2009, the law requires that the member's information remain indefinitely on the public Register of Dietitians along with their current status and their

Public Register Information

● indicates new information

- Name (including previous names under which member has practised).
- Business address and phone number.
- Registration number, member class and status (e.g., general or temporary, resigned, suspended, revoked, etc).
- Any terms, conditions and limitations in effect on the member's certificate.
- Details about every matter that has been referred to a Discipline Hearing.
- The result of every disciplinary and incapacity hearing (unless the panel makes no finding).
- A synopsis of every finding made against a member by the Discipline Committee or the Fitness to Practise Committee.
- A notation if results of discipline hearings are under appeal.
- A notation of every finding of professional negligence or malpractice (unless the finding is reversed on appeal).
- A notation of every suspension or revocation of the member's certificate.
- Any other information specified by a panel of the Registration, Discipline or Fitness to Practice Committee.
- A notation of the resignation and agreement where a member, during or as a result of an investigation, has resigned and agreed never to practise again in Ontario.

registration history. All suspensions and revocations will be noted on a member's record and appear in the Register of Dietitians, which can be accessed online from the College's website. Suspensions or revocations for non-payment of fees that occurred before June 4, 2009, will not appear on the Register. Registration activity taking place after June 4, 2009, will be displayed in the Register, online, as shown in the sample member record below.

Sample Member		
Registration #: 12345		
Current Status: Resigned		
Category: General Member		
Language(s) of dietetic services: English		
Registration History		
Registration Status	Effective Date	End Date
Resigned	May 26, 2009	
Active	January 10, 2009	May 26, 2009
Suspended	January 5, 2009	January 10, 2009
Active	November 10, 2005	January 5, 2009
General Member	June 9, 2006	May 26, 2009
Temporary Member	November 10, 2005	June 9, 2006

What Can I do?

To avoid having a suspension or revocation noted on your record, advise the College when you wish to resign. You can advise us in two ways:

1. Write a letter indicating the date of your resignation;
2. Resign online by accessing *Your Member Page* and click on Resign Your Membership.

Removing information from the public register

The RHPA makes provisions for some discipline or incapacity information to be removed from the public register. When a discipline or incapacity hearing has resulted in only a fine or a reprimand, or an order has been imposed by the Fitness to Practise Committee, the member may apply to the relevant committee for the results of the hearing to be removed from the public register. The following conditions must apply:

- More than six years have passed since the information was prepared or updated.
- The information is no longer relevant to the member's suitability to practise.

- The relevant committee believes that a refusal to disclose the information will have no impact on any person affected or the public interest
- The relevant committee has directed the Registrar to remove the information from public access
- The disciplinary proceedings are not related to sexual abuse.

2. THE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM WILL BE LONGER AND MORE DETAILED THIS YEAR TO COLLECT REQUIRED MINISTRY INFORMATION

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is developing a *Health Professions Database* for the purpose of health human resources planning. On May 1, 2009, the Ministry sent a letter to all health regulatory colleges, formally outlining the responsibilities of the Colleges with respect to the this database. As a result, the College of Dietitians of Ontario, and all other health regulatory colleges, are required to collect additional information from their members.

The renewal form was revised to effectively collect all the data required by the Ministry. It may take a little longer to complete your annual renewal form this year. You will find:

- questions that you have never been asked before (e.g., what is the age range of your clients?);
- changes to the format or potential answers to some of the familiar questions (e.g., if you have more than one area of practise you will be asked to choose one that best describes your role for each employer; and in a separate field, indicate all other areas of practise.); and
- more required fields where you will not be able to continue unless you have answered the questions.

How will my confidential personal information be protected?

The personal information that the College provides to the Ministry will be transferred in anonymous form. To ensure the privacy of your confidential information, the Ministry will not provide the results of a query if the results include a cell size that is too small to ensure anonymity of the information (e.g., how many dietitians in the Mississauga/Halton LHIN are nearing retirement age).