



College of Dietitians of British Columbia

Newsletter December 2006

In This Issue

[Chair's Message](#)
[Registrar's Message](#)
[Standards of Practice Workshop
and AGM](#)
[You asked about...](#)

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Quick Links

[Board Report](#)
[Inquiry Committee Report](#)
[Patient Relations Committee
Report](#)
[Quality Assurance Committee
Report](#)
[Registration Committee Report](#)

News Items

Call for Committee Members

Several committee members' terms end March 31, 2007. Current members are welcome to reapply. At the same time, Board members encourage Full and Grandparented registrants in all areas of the province to become involved with the College and apply for committee positions. Committee experience will help with succession planning

Chair's Message

CDBC continues to develop the infrastructure required to meet its legislated mandate under the *Health Professions Act* (HPA). The HPA clearly delineates the duties and objectives of CDBC; it explicitly mandates the college "...to establish, monitor and enforce standards of practice to enhance the quality of practice and reduce incompetent, impaired or unethical practice amongst registrants", through various methods, including establishing and maintaining "a continuing competency program to promote high practice standards amongst registrants".



As CDBC works towards meeting its legislated mandate, we are striving to engage registrants across the province to provide input and feedback into key documents and programs as they are developed and refined, such as the Standards of Practice, Continuing Competency Program and Code of Ethics. For example, we recently trialed teleconference technology to include participants from Kamloops and Kelowna in a facilitated workshop in Vancouver to review the first draft of the CDBC Standards of Practice.

As CDBC continues to evolve, we plan to expand our capacity to engage registrants across the province to ensure all registrants have the opportunity to help ensure CDBC meets its mandate of 'Public Protection'. I encourage all registrants to get involved as CDBC continues to solicit input.

Merry Christmas, and all the best for a healthy and happy 2007!

Glenn Kissmann, RD, CDE, MHS
Board Chair

at the Board level. Committees generally meet three to five times a year, in-person and by teleconference. Travel expenses are reimbursed and there is an annual honourarium of \$500 provided. Below is a list of current Committee activities. Please visit the Committee links for more detailed information.

- Inquiry Committee – developed an **Interpretive Guideline for the Inquiry Process** and investigates complaints against registrants' practice.

- Patient Relations Committee – developed the **CDBC Code of Ethics** and is working on the Patient Relations Program and several practice communication policies.

- Quality Assurance Committee – developing the **Continuing Competence Program and Standards of Practice** as well as policies to guide quality practice.

- Registration Committee – developed an **Interpretive Guideline for the Reserved Acts** and is developing a framework for reviewing international applications and determining appropriate upgrading for these international applicants.

If you are interested, please submit a resume and a cover letter by January 31, 2007 outlining why you'd like to participate in committee work. Include the names of those Committees of particular interest to you. Please call your regional Board member or the Registrar for more information.

2007/08 Fees

Registration renewal fees for the April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008 year remain the same at \$500 - information about renewing through the website will be sent to you in February, providing plenty of lead time before the March 31 deadline. In the meantime, please keep your personal and workplace profiles updated, which includes your **email and mailing address**, by accessing the link through the Home Page.

Continuing Competence Program

Coming... April 1, 2007, for all CDBC registrants! The Quality Assurance Committee and CDBC Board are in the final stages of approving the CDBC's new Continuing Competence Program. Based on registrant feedback, consultant Catherine Morley, PhD, RD, FDC, has developed a Professional Development Guide which explains the program, outlines the steps registrants will follow to prepare their submissions, and includes required forms and

Registrar's Message



In past columns, I've written about government requirements for regulation under the *Health Professions Act* (HPA). Some of the topics addressed in past columns include the following: Board and Committee structure and function, the complaint process, the requirement for a regulatory Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice, and the "substantial equivalence" wording in our registration bylaws for the assessment of applicants educated and trained in dietetics outside of Canada.

This column will address the HPA requirement "to establish standards of academic or technical achievement and the qualifications required for registration...".

As noted in the "Competency Validation Survey" news item below, the Alliance's two-year Competency Assessment Model (CAM) project has been completed. Nationally validated current competencies that are "essential" throughout a dietitian's career will be published early in 2007.

The "Essential Competencies for Dietetic Practice" have a broad impact on dietetic education and practice in BC and across Canada. They will be used in the following ways:

- as the education and internship benchmark for determining eligibility to register with the CDBC and other dietetic jurisdictions;
- as the educational basis for transfer under the Mutual Recognition Agreement;
- as the standard for assessing applicants educated outside of Canada;
- to revise the blueprint for the Canadian Dietetic Registration Examination;
- as the foundation for the developing CDBC Standards of Practice which will be incorporated in the new CDBC Continuing Competence Program;
- as a resource for the development of CDBC Practice Guidelines; and
- as a guide for practice remediation (future initiative).

The Essential Competencies will have a significant impact on dietetic education. In January 2007, I will be discussing the CDBC's implementation of the competencies with UBC and the subsequent ripple-

examples of completed forms. While these documents will be available to registrants online, they will also be provided in booklet format to all registrants to initiate the program. Once the interim Standards of Practice are incorporated, the documents will be formatted and printed for distribution to registrants early in 2007. Stay tuned for further information!

Complaint Outcome Report

You recently received a copy of a new Complaint Outcome Report for case #05-01 relating to competence and professionalism. The complaint was made by a member of the public. Further information about the complaint process, as legislated by the Health Professions Act, can be found at the Interpretive Guideline link for the Inquiry Committee (see above, under the "Call for Committee Members" item).

Reminder to Reinstatement Applicants

If you want to return to work and missed the April 1 registration deadline and the September 30 "late registration" deadline, you must apply for Reinstatement to the CDBC. The Reinstatement Application Form can be found on the website under the Registration Page. Please note – approval by the Registration Committee can take up to one week. Please plan ahead. You can not practice dietetics, call yourself a "dietitian" or use the designation "RD" until you are registered.

New Nursing Regulations

The College of Registered Nurses of BC (CRNBC) is the newest College under the Health Professions Act. The College's new legislation replaces the former legislation that governed nurses registered with the Registered Nurses Association of BC (RNABC). Nurses have a very broad scope of practice. Prior to government approval of the Nurses Regulation and the new CRNBC, the RNABC consulted with regulatory Colleges that have overlapping scopes of practice with Registered Nurses. Several CDBC registrants met during a teleconference meeting with RNABC representatives to discuss the proposed Reserved Acts for nurses relating to enteral and parenteral nutrition. The consultative process was very informative and productive. As a result of the meeting, the CDBC wrote to the Ministry of Health with

down effect on sites providing internship placements. After consultation with BC dietetic educators regarding the process and timing, a plan will be developed and implementation will be phased in.

The Essential Competencies for Dietetic Practice will enable the College to meet the government's requirement "to establish standards of academic or technical achievement and the qualifications required for registration...". I am looking forward to partnering with BC's dietetic educators as the College continues to evolve and fulfill our legislated requirements.

Fern Hubbard, DDH, BA, MEd
Registrar

Standards of Practice Workshop and AGM



On November 3, sixty-two workshop participants in three sites (Vancouver, Kelowna and Kamloops) reviewed a first draft of the CDBC Standards of Practice. Yvonne Anderson, yma Consulting, facilitated the lively session. Excellent feedback was received, which has been incorporated into a 2nd draft. This draft was

reviewed December 7 by an ad hoc committee consisting of members from the Patient Relations Committee, Quality Assurance Committee and Board. Further Committee and Board review will take place before the interim Standards of Practice are incorporated into the new Continuing Competence Program beginning April 1, 2007. Ongoing consultation will take place during the first year of the program and the CDBC Standards of Practice will be finalized prior to the program's 2nd year. A sincere "thank you" goes to all of you who participated either in-person or via teleconference.

After the workshop, 42 Vancouver registrants and 2 interns attended the 2nd Annual General Meeting of the College to hear reports on the April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006 fiscal year and current activities.

Attendance and participation in both events was terrific. In fact, the workshop was so successful, the

recommendations for further clarification of the Reserved Acts section of the proposed Nurses Regulation.

Legislation is now approved. To assist CRNBC registrants and other health professionals, the CRNBC has published a **short overview of the recent changes** for registered nursing. If you have any questions about the scope of nursing practice, particularly as it relates to enteral and parenteral nutrition, please contact the CRNBC's Nursing Policy Consultant at (604) 736-7331.

Happy Holidays!

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and happy holiday season! The office will be closed between Christmas and New Years but voicemail and email will be checked regularly for urgent messages. Have a happy and safe holiday!



Board has planned to incorporate a workshop on varying topics annually at the AGM. Thank you to all!

Competency Validation Survey

Thank you to all CDBC registrants who responded to the Alliance's online Competency Validation Survey. The national response rate was over 23% which is high for an electronic survey. There was a good response from all scope of practice areas (direct client care, community and population health, foodservice administration, management, education and business) as well as a wide range of practice experience.

Analysis of the survey data identified competencies and related performance indicators that are "essential" across all practice areas as well as those that are essential within specific practice areas. The "Essential Competencies for Dietetic Practice" were approved in principle by the Board of the CDBC in November 2006. Regulatory bodies across Canada are currently reviewing and approving the Essential Competencies. They will be launched early in 2007 with background information and resources. Watch your email for further information!

You asked about...

This new Newsletter item features questions from registrants that have broad applicability and interest. Do you have a question? Please call the College or email your question to info@collegeofdietitiansbc.org.

Q: I've recently been approached by a dietitian colleague to sell USANA vitamin supplements as a side-line enterprise. I wonder about the ethics of making money from my clients in this manner.

A: As well as ethical implications, selling products directly to clients for a profit has legal parameters and is addressed in the College's marketing bylaws (section 75). (Note: the [CDBC Code of Ethics and bylaws](#) may be found on the Legislation page of our website).

The CDBC Code of Ethics provides guidance for personal reflection on the ethics of recommending any product or service directly to clients "for profit." The following points have been taken from the Code of Ethics. Also included are related questions that should help you determine if your contemplated sales actions are ethical.

The CDBC Code of Ethics states dietitians must:

- Be responsible and accountable for services provided (Ask yourself: Can the client's nutritional goals be met by any other product? If questioned, could you justify your promotion of that particular product to the client?).
- Remain professionally objective with your recommendations (Would you recommend the products if you weren't making a profit?).
- Provide services based on scientific principles and current best-practice information (Are the products scientifically proven to be effective? Are they better than or as good as other similar products on the market? Is your judgment based on impartial research and scientific literature or only based on literature and evidence provided by the company and/or its representatives?).
- Refrain from deception... and refrain from real or perceived conflict of interest... (Are you promoting the products while being paid to work for another agency or person? If so, is the employer aware? Are you informing your clients that you're making a profit from selling the products to them?).
- Respect the client's choice (Are you informing your clients of other sources for obtaining the same product/nutrient – a source that doesn't financially benefit you – or of other products that would be equally effective? If a client declines to purchase the product, does it affect how you feel about the client and your ability to provide them with professional, objective dietetic services?).

The College is interpreting the marketing section of the bylaws (section 75 (4) b) to mean that selling dietetic products is allowable. This includes nutritional supplements. However, section 75(2) states that your professional services must not be "false, inaccurate, reasonably expected to mislead the public, unverifiable, or contrary to the public interest in the practice of the profession."

As a professional, you need to weigh many ethical and legal points when considering whether or not to recommend any "for profit" products directly to your clients. If you are in doubt or have questions, talk the matter over with an objective colleague or call the CDBC office. The Registrar would be happy to discuss the ethical and legal nuances with you.