Objectives

- Describe the purpose of each component of the Comprehensive Scope of Practice Resource for the RD and DTR
- Utilize the scope of practice documents for self-assessment to determine competence and how to advance practice
- Utilize the online interactive Scope of Practice Decision Tool to determine if an activity is within a RD or DTR's individual scope of practice

What do these Resources do?

- Provide an overview of the profession
- Outline practice standards, practice management and advancement, and practice resources
- Detail roles and activities in which the RD and DTR performs

Why use these Resources?

- Provide an overview of the components that encompass the scope of practice in nutrition and dietetics
- Support RDs and DTRs in providing safe, culturally competent, quality food and nutrition services
- Introduce resources for RDs and DTRs to direct scope of practice decision-making

Code of Ethics

Principle #14-
The dietetics practitioner assumes a life-long responsibility and accountability for personal competence in practice, consistent with accepted professional standards, continually striving to increase professional knowledge and skills and to apply them in practice.
Comprehensive Scope of Practice

Resource Components:
- Scope of Practice in Nutrition and Dietetics
- Scope of Practice for the RD
- Revised 2012 Standards of Practice (SOP) in Nutrition Care and Standards of Professional Performance (SOPP) for the RD
- Scope of Practice for the DTR
- Revised 2012 SOP in Nutrition Care and SOPP for the DTR
- Scope of Practice Decision Tool
- Definition of Terms

Let’s Review!

Scope of Practice in Nutrition and Dietetics

RD Scope of Practice

Describes the roles and activities in which the RD performs
- Must be consistent with statutory and individual scope of practice

RD Scope of Practice

Does not supersede state practice acts
- Licensure, certification, title protection acts
- State practice boards: rules and regulations

RD Scope of Practice

- If your state law does not define scope of practice, this document may assist with identifying activities that may be permitted within your individual Scope of Practice

RD Scope of Practice

RDs only practice in areas in which they are qualified and demonstrate competence in the delivery of food and nutrition services
RD Scope of Practice
RDs provide Medical Nutrition Therapy
• cost-effective, essential component of comprehensive nutrition care of medical diseases and conditions

Medical Nutrition Therapy is an evidenced-based application of the Nutrition Care Process (NCP)

Let's Review
Revised 2012 Standards of Practice in Nutrition Care and Standards of Professional Performance for RDs and DTRs

SOP and SOPP
Standards of Practice (SOP) in Nutrition Care for Registered Dietitians and Dietetic Technicians, Registered and Standards of Professional Performance (SOPP) for Registered Dietitians and Dietetic Technicians, Registered

• Identify the minimum competent level of nutrition and dietetics practice and professional performance for RDs and DTRs
• Self-assess RD and DTR practice and performance
• Measure quality and performance improvement through outcomes examples
• Utilize quality indicators for practice and performance
• Direct the RD and DTR to incorporate the Dietetics Career Development Guide

SOP
Apply to RDs and DTRs in direct patient/client care
• Based on the Nutrition Care Process
  • Nutrition Assessment
  • Nutrition Diagnosis
  • Nutrition Intervention/Plan of Care
  • Nutrition Monitoring and Evaluation

SOPP
• Apply to RDs and DTRs in all practice settings
• Formatted according to 6 domains of professional behavior
  • quality in practice, competence and accountability, provision of services, application of research, communication and application of knowledge, utilization and management of resources
• Reflect the training, responsibility and accountability of the RD and DTR
SOP and SOPP Standards promote:
• Safe, effective, and efficient food, nutrition dietetic and related services
• Evidence-based practice and best practices
• Improved health related outcomes and cost reduction methods
• Quality assurance and performance improvement
• Ethical billing and business practices

SOP and SOPP Standards promote, continued:
• Practitioner competence and qualification verification
• Adherence to rules and regulations of state departments of health and federal regulatory agencies
• Consistency in practice and performance
• Dietetics research, innovation and practice development
• Individual advancement

SOP and SOPP Standards provide:
• Minimum competent levels of practice and performance
• Common indicators for self-evaluation
• Activities for which RDs and DTRs are accountable
• A description of the role of nutrition and dietetics and the unique services that RDs and DTRs offer
• Guidance for policies and procedures, job descriptions, competence assessment tools and academic objectives for education programs

SOP and SOPP Standards can be used for professional development and to advance practice
• Use the SOP SOPP to identify learning needs and opportunities for advancement
• Develop goals
• Focus continuing education efforts

Focus Area of Dietetics Practice

Definition: Defined area of dietetics practice that requires focused knowledge, skills, and experience
Focus Area SOPP

For the RD:
1) Clinical Nutrition Management
2) Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
3) Disordered Eating & Eating Disorders
4) Integrative & Functional Medicine
5) Extended Care Settings
6) Diabetes Care
7) Oncology Nutrition Care
8) Nephrology Care
9) Pediatric Nutrition
10) Education of Dietetics Practitioners
11) Sports Dietetics
12) Management of Food & Nutrition Systems
13) Nutrition Support
14) Behavioral Health Care

SOPP for RDs in CNM

Defines 3 levels of practice:
• Competent - new to area of management
• Proficient - midlevel skills and abilities
• Expert - comprehensive understanding of CNM

RDs use the SOPP in CNM to:
• Identify competencies needed to provide CNM
• Self-assess to determine whether the RD has the appropriate knowledge and skills to provide CNM
• Identify areas in which additional knowledge and skills needed to practice at the competent, proficient, expert levels
• Guide development of continuing education programs, job descriptions and career pathways

Locate the SOPP for RDs in CNM

Career Development Guide
Career Development Guide Definitions

**Competent**
A dietetics practitioner who has just obtained RD/DTR status, starting in an employment situation as a professional, and gains on the job skills as well as tailored continuing education to enhance proficiency and knowledge.

**Proficient**
A RD or DTR who is three plus years beyond entry into the profession, who has obtained operational job performance skills and is successful in the chosen focus area of practice.

**Expert**
A RD or DTR who is recognized within the profession and has mastered the highest degree of skill in or knowledge of a certain focus or generalized area of dietetics.

**Specialist**

**Definition:** A practitioner who demonstrates additional knowledge, skills and experience in a focus area of dietetics practice by the attainment of a credential.

**Rationale:** The term specialist requires a credential.

**Advanced Practice**

**Definition:** The practitioner demonstrates a high level of skills, knowledge and behaviors. The individual exhibits a set of characteristics that include leadership and vision and demonstrates effectiveness in planning, evaluating and communicating targeted outcomes.

DTR Scope of Practice

DTRs may only practice in areas in which they are qualified and demonstrate competence in delivery of food and nutrition services.

Work under the supervision of the RD:
- Direct patient/client nutrition care

Work independently:
- Provide general nutrition education to healthy individuals
- Consult with food service business and industry
- Conduct nutrient analysis
- Collect data and conduct research
- Manage food and nutrition services in a variety of settings
Supervision Defined
What is meant by “under the supervision of the RD”?
• The RD is ultimately accountable and responsible for the nutrition care of patients/clients in various health-care settings and social services programs
• Direct or Indirect supervision

DTR Scope of Practice
Direct Patient/Client Nutrition Care
• RD’s supervise the nutrition care provided by DTRs
• Supervision of the DTR is determined by
  – Medical complexity of the patient/client
  – DTR’s experience and demonstrated, documented competence
  – State dietetics/nutritionist practice act and statutory scope of practice (if defined)
  – Rules which may define supervision (direct or indirect)

DTR Scope of Practice
DTR’s participate in the Nutrition Care Process:
• Assist RD with data collection
• Assist with development of nutrition-related priorities, goals and objectives; participate as assigned
• Implement nutrition interventions and education as assigned by the RD
• Complete, document, and report the results and observations of patient/client monitoring activities as assigned by the RD

Scope of Practice Resources
Scope of Practice Decision Tool
• An online, interactive tool
• Permits the individual RD and DTR to answer a series of questions
• Determines if a particular activity is within his or her scope of practice

Locate the Decision Tool at www.eatright.org/shop, under Quality Management

Scope of Practice Resources
Definition of Terms List
• An alphabetical cross-referenced list of terms
  • Members: www.eatright.org/scope
  • Non-members: Health Professionals Web page
     – Resources for Health Practitioners www.eatright.org/HealthProfessionals/content.aspx?id=6866
Scope of Practice Decision Tool

Let’s analyze activities that an individual RD or DTR use to verify his/her scope of practice!

Case Scenario #1
A Registered Dietitian would like to screen for swallowing difficulty.
The Registered Dietitian...
- Practices and is licensed in Illinois
- Has a Master’s of Science in Nutrition
- Has been practicing in nutrition support for 10 years and is a Certified Nutrition Support Clinician (CNSC)
- Reviewed the Standards of Practice and Standards of Professional Performance for RDs in Nutrition Support and assesses herself to be at the Expert level of practice
- Reviewed her organization protocols and policies which allow a pathway for the RD to screen for swallowing difficulties if the Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) is not available
- Has been trained by the SLP
- Ensures the SLP assesses her competence to screen for swallowing difficulties annually

Case Scenario #2
A private practice Registered Dietitian would like to initiate orders for functional medicine labs
The Registered Dietitian...
- Practices and is licensed in Illinois
- Holds a MS and has been practicing nutrition for 1 year in an acute care setting
- Is transitioning to private practice
- Reviewed the Standards of Practice (SOP) and Standards of Professional Performance (SOPP) for RDs in Integrative and Functional Medicine and assesses himself as competent

Case Scenario #3
A Dietetic Technician, Registered would like to teach carbohydrate counting to inpatients of an acute care facility
The Dietetic Technician, Registered...
- Practices in Illinois under the supervision of an RD
- Holds an Associate Degree and has been practicing in acute care for 20 years
- The RD assesses the DTR to be competent to educate in carbohydrate counting annually
- Understands the Scope of Practice in Nutrition Care for RDs and DTRs
- Organization policies and the DTR’s job description includes the DTR in providing basic inpatient nutrition education

Case Scenario #4
A private practice DTR would like to contract with pediatricians to provide nutrition counseling on food allergies and food sensitivities
The Dietetic Technician, Registered...
- Practices in Illinois
- Graduated from a didactic program (DPD) and passed the DTR exam 1 year ago
- Has obtained professional liability insurance
- Reviewed the Standards of Practice and Standards of Professional Performance for RDs in Pediatric Nutrition, but does not apply the standards for self-assessment

Conclusion
- Become familiar with the Comprehensive Scope of Practice Resources for the RD and for the DTR
- Complete self-assessment of knowledge, skills and competence level by using the Scope of Practice Decision Tool
- Assess and document your own practice to ensure quality, competent care
Thank you!

Questions?