

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: Revised 2017 Standards of Practice and Standards of Professional Performance for RDNs (Competent, Proficient, and Expert) in Diabetes Care

What are the Standards of Practice (SOP) and Standards of Professional Performance (SOPP)?

- SOP and SOPP are consensus standards for RDNs to use for professional development and to assure competence.
- The standards provide a guide for self-evaluation; determine education and skills needed for advancing practice levels; and may be used by employer or regulatory agencies to determine competence for credentialed nutrition and dietetics practitioners.

SOP – Direct care to patient/client/customer

- Nutrition Assessment
- Nutrition Diagnosis
- Nutrition Intervention/Plan of Care
- Nutrition Monitoring and Evaluation

SOPP – 6 Domains of Professionalism

- Quality in Practice
- Competence and Accountability
- Provision of Services
- Application of Research
- Communication and Application of Knowledge
- Utilization and Management of Resources



WHAT?

What is a Focus Area?

- A focus area of nutrition and dietetics practice is a defined field of practice that requires specialized knowledge, skills and experience.
- It relates to how a practitioner specializes in a specific area of practice (i.e., diabetes care, pediatric nutrition, public health and community nutrition).¹
 - The SOP in Nutrition Care and SOPP for RDNs² serves as the blueprint for the SOP SOPP in Diabetes Care in competent, proficient, and expert levels of practice.



WHEN?

When is a Focus Area SOP SOPP updated?

- Seven-year review process
- Indicated by changes in
 - healthcare and other business segments
 - public health initiatives
 - new research that guides evidence-based practice and best practices
 - consumer interests
 - technological advances
 - emerging practice environments



HOW?

How were the Diabetes Care Standards updated?

The article, indicators, and figures were revised with input and consensus of content experts representing diverse diabetes practice areas/settings and geographic perspectives.

Reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee of the Diabetes Dietetic Practice Group and the Academy Quality Management Committee.

Sources:

¹ Definition of Terms List. Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Accessed February 4, 2021. <https://www.eatrightpro.org/definitions>.

² Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Quality Management Committee. Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: Revised 2017 Standards of Practice in Nutrition Care and Standards of Professional Performance for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists. *J Acad Nutr Diet*. 2018;118(1): 132-140.

Diabetes Care Overview and Application



Diabetes



Person-Centered



Interprofessional Care



Community

Overview

- According to the CDC, in 2017 there were 86 million people with pre-diabetes and 30.3 million (9.4% of U.S. population) with diabetes. (www.cdc.gov/diabetes).
- RDNs working in practice settings addressing diabetes must have the appropriate knowledge, skills, and competence to provide safe and effective person-centered nutrition care across the lifespan.
- Diabetes practice RDNs work in a variety of settings (e.g., outpatient collaborative care clinics, inpatient and outpatient health care facilities, diabetes education centers, and community health centers) with a full range of roles and responsibilities (e.g., direct care, academia, research, federal or state agencies, or professional organizations).¹



Role Example – Clinical Practitioner (inpatient care)

A community hospital recently employed a newly credentialed registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN) for the adult general medicine units. The RDN observes that diabetes is a common medical diagnosis. To strengthen knowledge and skills in diabetes management and education, the RDN reviews the SOP and SOPP in Diabetes Care to evaluate skills and competencies for providing care to individuals with diabetes and sets professional goals to improve competency in this area of practice. The RDN meets with the RDN in the Diabetes Education Center to learn about the program and referral process and obtain advice on continuing education options for inclusion in a professional development plan. The RDN uses other staff RDNs as mentors and consults when patients have complex management needs beyond the RDN's experience/level of competence.¹

Additional Information and Resources

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics:

- Scope of Practice: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/scope>
- Standards of Practice: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/sop>

Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

- Scope and Standards for RDNs and NDTRs Collection: <https://jandonline.org/content/core>
- Focus Area Standards for CDR Specialist Credentials Collection: <https://jandonline.org/content/credentialed>
- Focus Area Standards for RDNs Collection: <https://jandonline.org/content/focus>

Diabetes Dietetic Practice Group: <https://www.diabetesdpg.org/>

Sources:

¹ Davidson P, Ross T, Castor C. Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: Revised 2017 Standards of Practice and Standards of Professional Performance for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (Competent, Proficient, and Expert) in Diabetes Care. *J Acad Nutr Diet*. 2018;118(5): 932-946.e48.