SCOPE OF PRACTICE DECISION ALGORITHM

The Scope of Practice Decision Algorithm provides a process for self-evaluation to determine if a desired activity (i.e., role, service, or intervention) is within a RDN’s or NDTR’s individual scope of practice by answering a series of questions. The algorithm is designed to allow a RDN or NDTR to critically evaluate their knowledge, skills, experience, and demonstrated and documented competence using criteria resources.

Prior to using the Scope of Practice Decision Algorithm, it is recommended to investigate the activity by obtaining information on the knowledge, skills, necessary training, and certifications, if required, expected to demonstrate qualifications. This review will also assist in responding to the below questions. Documents and resources useful for review include:

- **Scope of Practice** (for the RDN or for the NDTR)
- **Standards of Practice (SOP) and Standards of Professional Performance (SOPP)** (SOP in Nutrition Care and SOPP for RDNs or for NDTRs; Focus Area Standards for RDNs consisting of 17 publications such as Nutrition Support, Adult Weight Management, Oncology Nutrition, Sports Nutrition and Dietetics, Diabetes Care, Pediatric Nutrition)
- **Accreditation Standards** (TJC, DNV GL, ACHC formerly known as HFAP, CoC)
- **Laws and Regulations**
  - Licensure
  - Ordering Privileges and Diet Orders
  - Telehealth
- **Dietetic Practice Groups (DPGs)**
- **Academy Practice Tips and Case Studies**
- **Nutrition Practice Guidelines** (e.g., Academy Evidence Analysis Library [EAL])
- **Certificates of Training Programs** (CDR, Academy, or other national or professional organization[s])
- **Academy Definition of Terms List**

Use the Scope of Practice Decision Algorithm on page 2. If the Algorithm assists in identifying the activity is within your individual scope of practice, complete the following before performing the activity:

- Ensure the activity is included in your job description
- Verify the personnel file contains documentation of education, training, credentials, if applicable, and evaluation of competence
- Check that activity is approved/included in applicable official facility/organization documents, e.g., medical staff bylaws, rules and regulations, human resource-related policies
- Investigate your organization’s liability insurance coverage; decide on the need for additional personal liability insurance or review your current personal plan to determine appropriate coverage
- Identify if activity is a Medicare or private insurer covered service and reimbursable when performed by a RDN or NDTR

**DISCLAIMER:** This algorithm does not constitute medical or other professional advice, and should not be taken as such. The information presented is not a substitute for the exercise of professional judgment by the RDN or NDTR, but rather an exercise in evaluation by the individual practitioner and/or their organization. The algorithm is not intended for disciplinary actions, or determination of negligence or misconduct. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (Academy) is not responsible for an individual RDN’s or NDTR’s actions or omissions based on the use of the algorithm. The use of the algorithm for any other purpose than that for which it was formulated must be undertaken with the sole authority and discretion of the user, and the user agrees to release and indemnify the Academy and its employees and agents from any liability arising from use of the algorithm.

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Scope of Practice Decision Algorithm

1. Did you review the Scope of Practice and the SOP in Nutrition Care and/or SOPP for RDNs or for NDTRs, applicable RDN focus area SOP and/or SOPP, and other relevant documents such as nutrition practice guidelines (e.g., EAL guidelines); national organization practice guidelines; federal and state regulations, conditions of participation or conditions for coverage; and facility/program accreditation standards applicable to the setting or population?

   NO

   5. Have you demonstrated your ability to perform the activity competently to an individual with the knowledge and skills to appropriately assess your competence to perform the activity according to accepted standards including those for the required certification? Is that evaluation documented in your personnel record?

   NO

2. Is the activity consistent with nutrition practice guidelines, other national organization standards of practice and/or practice guidelines, accreditation standards, federal and state regulations, and good business practices?

   NO

   6. Does your employer/organization recognize the credential/certificate of training/skills training and authorize the RDN or NDTR with the necessary qualifications and credentials to perform the activity?

   NO

3. If the state(s) where you work license RDNs and NDTRs, is there any language that prohibits the activity? Is there language in any other profession’s statute and regulations that would prohibit an RDN or NDTR performing the activity? Note any specific regulations related to ordering privileges, delegated orders, telehealth/telemedicine, or other activity, if applicable.

   YES

   7. Does your employer/organization in its governing documents, policies and procedures, or other documents (e.g., medical staff bylaws, rules, and regulations; medical director-approved policy or protocol) recognize the RDN or NDTR as authorized to perform the activity?

   NO

4. Do you have the necessary knowledge, skills, training (including certificates of training or required certification[s]) to perform the activity?

   NO

   8. Have you worked with your supervisor and/or organization representative to ensure organization-required steps and necessary documents (e.g., organization and department/services policies and procedures, billing procedures, personal job description) are completed to allow the RDN or NDTR to perform the activity?

   NO

   This activity is within your individual scope of practice.

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