STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

Professional Standards are based on the values, priorities, and practice of the professional. They describe the minimal levels of performance against which actual performance can be compared, are intended to guide daily practice and are applicable to all dietitians regardless of area of practice or setting. Although it is recognized that individual dietitians will strive to exceed the requirements of the standards, performance below these standards is considered unacceptable. Six Professional Standards have been identified for Dietitians.

Standard 1: Provision of Service to a Client
The dietitian uses a client-centered approach to provide and facilitate an effective dietetic service.

Standard 2: Unique Body of Knowledge
The dietitian has an in-depth scientific knowledge of food and human nutrition, and integrates this knowledge with that from other disciplines including health and social sciences, education, communication and management.

Standard 3: Competent Application of Knowledge
The dietitian competently applies the unique body of knowledge of food and human nutrition, and competently integrates this knowledge with that from other disciplines including health and social sciences, education, communication and management.

Standard 4: Continued Competence
The dietitian is responsible for life-long learning to ensure competence in her/his area of practice.

Standard 5: Ethics
The dietitian practices in accordance with the ethical guidelines of the profession.

... continued
Standard 6: Professional Responsibility and Accountability

The dietitian is accountable to the public and is responsible for ensuring that her/his practice meets legislative requirements and Standards of Practice of the profession.

Professional practice is based on the belief that the actions of the dietitian have an effect on the client outcomes. Each Professional Standards statement is accompanied by indicators that illustrate how the standard can be applied followed by a short discussion of outcomes.

The Professional Standards for Dietitians in Canada complete document can be downloaded at: http://www.dietitians.ca/Downloadable-Content/Public/Professional_Standards_in_Canada_manual.aspx