

### Comparison of dietetic practice definitions

Below are definitions of dietetic practice or nutrition/dietetic practice from various licensing or certification bills/laws in various states. These definitions basically outline the scope of practice of the licensed or certified practitioner. This of course is just a sampling of states. We need to determine what should be included in the definition of nutrition/dietetic practice in NJ.

### Definition of dietetics practice from previously submitted NJ bills:

"Nutrition/dietetics practice" means the integration and application of principles derived from the science of nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, food, ~~food~~ management and from behavioral and social sciences to achieve and maintain a healthy human status. It includes the provision of nutrition care as follows: assessing the nutritional needs of individuals and groups, and determining resources and constraints; establishing priorities, goals and objectives that meet nutritional needs and are consistent with available resources and constraints; providing nutrition counseling in health and disease; developing, implementing and managing nutrition care systems; evaluating, making changes in and maintaining appropriate standards of quality in ~~food and~~ nutrition services; and establishing appropriate care plans for normal and therapeutic nutrition services.

### Massachusetts Law

"Field of dietetics and nutrition", the integration and application of scientific principles of food, nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, food management, behavioral and social sciences to achieve and maintain the health of people. The field includes assessing the nutritional needs of individuals and groups of individuals based upon appropriate biochemical, anthropometric, physical, demographic, clinical, and dietary data to determine nutrient needs including enteral and parenteral nutrition; developing, evaluating and monitoring nutrition care plans that establish priorities, goals and objectives for meeting nutrient needs for individuals and groups; and advising and assisting individuals or groups of individuals on appropriate nutritional intake as part of preventive or restorative health care. Dietetics and nutrition also includes integrating information from the nutrition assessment with information on food and other sources of nutrient and meal preparation consistent with cultural background and socioeconomic status.

"Registered dietitian", a person registered by the commission of dietetic registration of the American Dietetic Association who practices the field of dietetics and nutrition.

"Nutritionist", a person concerned with food science and human nutrition, who adapts and applies food and nutrient information to the solution of food problems, the control of disease and the promotion of health, performs nutritional research, instructs groups and individuals about nutritional research, instructs groups and individuals about nutritional

requirements and assists individuals about nutritional requirements, and assists individuals in developing patterns to meet their nutritional needs.

**Connecticut Law (certification)**

"Nutrition assessment" means the evaluation of the nutrition needs of individuals and groups based upon appropriate biochemical, physical, and dietary data to determine nutrient needs and recommend appropriate nutrition intake including enteral and parental nutrition.

(4) "Nutrition counseling" means advising and assisting individuals or groups on appropriate nutrition intake by integrating information from the nutrition assessment.

(5) "Dietetics or nutrition practice" means the integration and application of the principles derived from the sciences of nutrition, biochemistry, food, physiology, and behavioral and social sciences to provide nutrition services that include: (A) Nutrition assessment; (B) the establishment of priorities, goals, and objectives that meet nutrition needs; (C) the provision of nutrition counseling in health and disease; (D) the development, implementation and management of nutrition care plans; and (E) the evaluation and maintenance of appropriate standards of quality in food and nutrition. The term "dietetics or nutrition practice" does not include the administration of nutrition by any route other than oral administration and does not include the issuance of orders for laboratory or other diagnostic tests or orders intended to be implemented by any person licensed pursuant to chapter 378.

**Maryland Law:**

(f) (1) "Practice dietetics" means to apply the principles derived from integrating knowledge of food, biochemistry, physiology, management science, behavioral science, and social science to human nutrition.

(2) "Practice dietetics" includes:

(i) Assessing individual and community food practices and nutritional status using anthropometric, biochemical, clinical, dietary, and demographic data, for clinical, research, and program planning purposes;

(ii) Developing, establishing, and evaluating nutritional care plans that establish priorities, goals, and objectives for meeting nutrient needs for individuals or groups;

(iii) Nutrition counseling and education as a part of preventive or restorative health care throughout the life cycle;

(iv) Determining, applying, and evaluating standards for food and nutrition services; and

(v) Applying scientific research to the role of food in the maintenance of health and the treatment of disease.

**New York Law (certification)**

1. Dietetics and nutrition are herein each defined as the integration and application of principles derived from the sciences of nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, food management and behavioral and social sciences to achieve and maintain people's health.

2. Where the title "certified dietitian" or "certified nutritionist" is used in this article it shall mean "certified dietitian", "certified dietician", or "certified nutritionist".

3. A certified dietitian or certified nutritionist is one who engages in the integration and application of principles derived from the sciences of nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, food management and behavioral and social sciences to achieve and maintain people's health, and who is certified as such by the department pursuant to section eight thousand four of this article. The primary function of a certified dietitian or certified nutritionist is the provision of nutrition care services that shall include:

- (a) Assessing nutrition needs and food patterns;
- (b) Planning for and directing the provision of food appropriate for physical and nutrition needs; and
- (c) Providing nutrition counseling.

#### **Tennessee Law**

"Dietetics/nutrition practice" means the integration and application of scientific principles of food, nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, management and behavioral and social sciences in achieving and maintaining health through the life cycle and in the treatment of disease. Methods of practice include, but are not limited to, nutritional assessment, development, implementation and evaluation of nutrition care plans, nutritional counseling and education, and the development and administration of nutrition care standards and systems;

#### **Pennsylvania Law:**

(7) The "practice of dietetics-nutrition" means the integration and application of principles derived from the sciences of food, nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, management and behavior to provide for all aspects of nutrition therapy for individuals, and groups, including nutrition therapy services and medical nutrition therapy, compatible with dietitian-nutritionist education and professional competence.

(10) "Medical nutrition therapy" means the component of nutrition therapy that concerns determining and recommending nutrient needs based on nutritional assessment and medical problems relative to diets prescribed by a licensed physician including:

- (i) tube feedings;
- (ii) specialized intravenous solutions;
- (iii) specialized oral solutions; and
- (iv) interactions of prescription drugs with food or nutrients.

(11) "Nutrition therapy services" means assessing the nutritional needs of individuals and groups, considering the resources and constraints in the practice setting, providing nutrition counseling in health and disease, developing, implementing and managing:

- (i) nutrition therapy of; and
- (ii) food service systems for

Individuals and groups and maintaining appropriate standards of quality in food and nutrition therapy services for individuals and groups.

**New Hampshire Law:**

**326-H:6 Scope of Practice.** -- Licensed dietitians shall be authorized to practice applications from food, nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, management, behavioral, and social sciences used in the treatment of illness, injury and other medical conditions, and the maintenance of human health.