

Fact Sheet

Nutrition Care Process and Test Specifications for the Registration Examinations

When will the new test specification for the dietitian and dietetic technician examinations be implemented?

The new test specifications for both the dietitian and dietetic technician examinations will be implemented January 1, 2007.

Is the Nutrition Care Process reflected in the new test specifications?

Yes. The CDR Examination Panel updated the test specification language to reflect the Nutrition Care Process.

Did CDR replace the existing item pool questions related to nutrition care in order to address the Nutrition Care Process?

No. Questions addressing this topic area were reclassified to the new examination content outline domain/topic. In some instances, terminology was updated to reflect standardized language.

Did CDR write any new questions for the item pool to address the nutrition care process?

New items were written, as always, to address those content areas not adequately represented in the item pool. CDR's examination development procedures require that all new items be pre-tested prior to inclusion in the scored portion of the examinations. In the 2007 exam, the only new items on the Nutrition Care Process will be pre-test questions. New scored questions on the Nutrition Care Process are expected to be included in the 2008 exam.

Why did CDR add new questions addressing the Nutrition Care Process to the item pool before this process is widely implemented by practitioners?

As a certification agency, CDR is obligated to continually update the registration examinations to reflect current state of the art practice. Over the years, CDR has updated the item pool numerous times to reflect practice changes i.e.; new exchange lists for patients with diabetes, new DRIs, and new labeling laws, to name just a few. CDR recognized the broad impact of the Nutrition Care Process and allowed more than three years to elapse, from its initial publication in 2003, before incorporating this content into the test specifications. Across the professions, it is not unusual for education and research to drive practice change.

Are there Nutrition Care Process educational resources available to assist dietetics education programs and practitioners?

Yes. There are several educational resources available. Please refer to the attached promotional flyer for the new CDR Assess & Learn module.