

Executive Summary

This report describes the methodology and procedures used to conduct a practice analysis and develop the exam specifications for the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) Certified Specialist in Pediatric Nutrition (CSP) and Certified Specialist in Pediatric Critical Care Nutrition (CSPCC) examinations.

The three major activities that comprise the practice analysis process described in this report are as follows:

1. **Practice Analysis Committee Meeting** – A gathering of subject matter experts (SMEs) to discuss and develop a description of the scope of practice
2. **Practice Analysis Survey** – A large-scale survey of practitioners not involved with the SME panel to validate the task and knowledge statements developed by the committee
3. **Development of Examination Specifications** – The development of an Examination Content Outline by the committee based on the results of the survey

Several practitioners were assembled by CDR to serve as subject matter experts (SMEs). The individuals selected represent a wide variety of work-related characteristics such as years of experience, work setting, geographic location, and areas of specialty. This helps in developing a scope of practice that is reflective of the roles and responsibilities of the job role and is relatively free from bias. By analyzing the experiences and expertise of current practitioners, the results from the practice analysis become the basis of a validated assessment that reflects the competencies required for competent job performance.

The practice analysis process utilized in this study yields exam specifications that accurately reflect the scope of practice, allowing for the development of fair, accurate, and realistic assessments of candidates' readiness for certification in the two specialties. The study resulted in one master Examination Content Outline (Appendix E) that indicates which knowledge apply to either one or both CSP and CSPCC examinations. The three knowledge areas of the master outline are:

1. Characteristics of Pediatric Patient Population
2. Nutrition Assessment and Diagnosis
3. Nutrition Intervention, Monitoring, and Evaluation

A separate exam content outline was then derived for each of the CSP and CSPCC examinations: one 125-item examination. Each exam content outline includes content distribution requirements at the knowledge area (content domain) level as well as topic (content subdomain) level.