

PRACTICE TIPS: The RDN - NDTR Team

Take the following STEPS to assure the RDN - NDTR team is preserved in your organization and practice setting!

Step 1: Educate yourself and gather information.

- Read federal and state rules and regulations including state licensure, registration, or certification laws.
- Review the RDN and NDTR job descriptions for the organization.
- Examine facility policies as they pertain to the RDN/NDTR team. Assemble all documentation pertaining to how the NDTR is empowered to do the job they are doing in your facility.
- Analyze guidelines and requirements for the organization(s) that accredit the facility. (The Joint Commission, Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program of American Osteopathic Association, DNV-GL National Integrated Accreditation for Healthcare Organizations, Public Health Accreditation Program, Commission on Cancer)
- Review the Revised 2017 Scope of Practice for the NDTR, Revised 2017 Standards of Practice (SOP) in Nutrition Care and Standards of Professional Performance (SOPP) for RDNs and Revised 2017 SOP in Nutrition Care and SOPP for NDTRs in the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*:
<https://jandonline.org/content/core>.
- Use the Scope of Practice Decision Algorithm: <https://www.cdrnet.org/scope>.

Step 2: Write your policies, procedures, or protocols governing the RDN - NDTR team from what you learned.

- Match first to state and federal regulations.
- Second, include requirements from your accrediting organization(s).
- Third, use Academy and industry evidenced-based practice guidelines and standards to develop procedures or protocols.

Step 3: Assess the competence of each NDTR and the RDN – NDTR Team.

- Determine the competence level of each individual supervised. Ensure they are competent to do the job the RDN is asking them to do.
 - Demonstrate competence through education, experience, and specialized training appropriate to the task(s) assigned. Document and keep record(s) of competence.
 - Use facility-specific tools to demonstrate competence.
- Existing procedures or protocols may need to be altered and adjusted for the RDN - NDTR team to appropriately match competencies to the work required.
- Use CDR Essential Practice Competencies to assist with competency evaluations:
https://admin.cdrnet.org/vault/2459/web/New_CDR_Competencies_2021.pdf.

Step 4: Continually monitor the process and competence levels to be able to meet federal or state regulations and accreditation organization standards.

- Ensure technical personnel have the appropriate credentials as required by state regulations and/or organization policy/job description.
- Make certain the RDN is qualified based on education, experience, specialized training, or required certifications (e.g., CDR Certified Specialist in Pediatrics [CSP] or Renal [CSR]), and if required by state law, is licensed, certified, or registered by the state.
- NDTRs work under the clinical supervision of the RDN when engaged in direct client/patient/customer nutrition care activities involving the prevention or treatment of acute or chronic diseases or conditions in any setting. The RDN is ultimately accountable and responsible for application of the Nutrition Care Process (NCP) and the nutrition care services for the client/patient/customer.

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- The RDN can assign tasks to the NDTR within the Nutrition Care Process, based on competence level, but the RDN is ultimately accountable and responsible to the client/patient/customer, attending physician, employer/organization, and regulator for actions assigned to NDTRs and other technical and support staff.

**Make sure to hire the right Tech –
Hire the Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered - the NDTR!**

In this Practice Tips, the CDR has chosen to use the term RDN to refer to both registered dietitians (RD) and registered dietitian nutritionists (RDN) and to use the term NDTR to refer to both dietetic technician, registered (DTR) and nutrition and dietetics technician, registered (NDTR).

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