

February 2023

CREDENTIALING TIPS: Using the RD and RDN and the DTR and NDTR Credential

The Registered Dietitian[®] (RD[®]); Registered Dietitian Nutritionist[®] (RDN[®]); Dietetic Technician, Registered[®] (DTR[®]) or Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered[®] (NDTR[®]) credentials are awarded by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) to individuals who meet specific academic and supervised practice requirements and successfully pass a registration examination.

Ownership and Audit

- The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (Academy) and CDR are the owners of the ‘CDR Marks’ – RD, RDN, DTR, NDTR and are also the owners of the ‘CDR Marks’ for the seven (7) Board Specialist and the Advanced Practitioner credentials. View [List of CDR Credentials](#).
- The Academy and CDR reserve and retain all rights, titles, and interests, including, without limitation, all trademark and other intellectual property rights, in and to the CDR Marks and will audit all use of the CDR Marks and require correction for any inappropriate use.
- Academy and CDR will determine if the use of the CDR Marks is not in compliance or otherwise threatens to harm the CDR Marks.

Businesses using the RD RDN – CDR Marks registered with USPTO

- CDR requests credentialed practitioners do not trademark the CDR marks with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and cease and desist use of the CDR Marks within a business that trademarked the CDR trademarks.
- CDR may immediately oppose business trademarks with the USPTO and request the credentialed practitioner terminate use of the CDR Marks.
- Credentialed practitioners are in violation of the CDR and Academy approved revised [Credential Use and Misuse Policy](#) and should take immediate action to terminate with USPTO the use of the CDR Mark.
 - However, it is acceptable to use the CDR Mark for business services within scope of practice* in web site domains, social media handles, and professional email account addresses. Again, the issue is the CDR Mark used in the business trademark registered with the USPTO.
 - **Scope of practice* means:** Development, provision, management and administration of effective food, nutrition and dietetics services for individuals and groups in a variety of practice settings, including healthcare, business, public health, research, and education.

Note for Eligible Individuals

- Eligible Individuals cannot preliminarily use the RD or RDN and the DTR or NDTR credential as eligibility to take the entry-level exam is not an indication that an individual will schedule, take, or pass the exam.
- The following are not credentials and eligible individuals should not use:
 - [“RDE” and “RDNE” ; “RD Eligible” and “RDN Eligible”](#)
 - [“DTRE” and “NDTRE” ; “DTR Eligible” and “NDTR Eligible”](#)

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Voluntary Termination of the RD RDN and Retirement

- In the event that a credentialed practitioner does not renew or maintain his/her credential, he/she must immediately cease all use of the CDR Marks associated with such CDR credential, including retirement. The RD or RDN credential cannot be used to mean Retired Dietitian or Retired Dietitian Nutritionist.

Permitted Uses of the RD RDN – CDR Marks

- Credentialed practitioners may use:
 - on business stationery (letterhead, business cards), web site domains, professional email account addresses, and social media handles, when attached to the practitioner's name and are providing services within scope of practice.
 - NOTE: The use of domains, social handles, and emails must be immediately discontinued *after the loss of the credential(s)*.
 - to promote services within the scope of practice* for the conferred CDR credential and not for any other commercial or business purpose.
 - with permission from employers, if applicable, before printing CDR Marks on company stationery to ensure appropriate use.
 - **Examples of permitted use for current, valid RD or RDN include:**
 - www.FirstNameLastNameRDN.com or www.FirstNameLastNameRD.com
 - @FirstNameLastNameRDN or @FirstNameLastNameRD
 - FirstNameLastName, RDN, LLC or FirstNameLastName, RD, LLC
 - FirstNameLastNameRDN@email.com or FirstNameLastNameRD@email.com
 - **Examples of permitted use for current, valid DTR or NDTR include:**
 - www.FirstNameLastNameNDTR.com or www.FirstNameLastNameDTR.com
 - @FirstNameLastNameNDTR or @FirstNameLastNameDTR
 - FirstNameLastName, NDTR, LLC or FirstNameLastName, DTR, LLC
 - FirstNameLastNameNDTR@email.com or FirstNameLastNameDTR@email.com

Inquiries contact: CDR@eatright.org.

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