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Subject: Medical Laboratory Technology Scope of Practice Review

Dietitians of Canada (DC) is pleased to have the opportunity to review and respond to the scope of practice review application for the profession of medical laboratory technology. True interprofessional collaboration, supported by professionals working to their full competencies, is strongly supported by DC. Improvements in the quality of patient care, as well as benefits to the health system, result from professionals working collaboratively.

As stated on page 19 of the application, medical laboratory technologists collaborate and consult with RDs regarding nutrition-related tests. We support the ability of RDs to directly order such tests, as noted in the Dietetics submission, as well as the ability of medical laboratory technologists with appropriate training to institute follow-up tests under their own initiative. Availability of information to support a comprehensive nutrition assessment is fundamental to efficient and effective nutrition care by RDs.

A number of professions have noted the need for changes to The Public Hospitals Act to support interprofessional collaboration and eliminate delays in patient treatment. Expanding the list of professionals authorized to order diagnostic and treatment procedures within the hospital setting would improve continuity of care as well as overall system efficiency and effectiveness.

Dietitians of Canada commends HPRAC for initiating scope of practice review enable interprofessional collaboration, and supports changes to regulated health professions that will result in safe, effective patient care.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Dietrich".

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leslie Whittington-Carter".

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