



College of Dietitians of Ontario
Ordre des Diététistes de l'Ontario



Dietitians of Canada
Les diététistes du Canada

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Re: Ontario Medical Association (OMA) response to Dietetic Scope of Practice Review

Dietitians of Canada and the College of Dietitians of Ontario would like to take this opportunity to clarify comments in the OMA response to our recommendations.

Psychotherapy – CDO and DC wish to ensure that dietetics practitioners are not limited in the use of psychotherapy techniques used in nutrition counseling. A subset of the dietetic profession does practice psychotherapy within the team setting, for example in eating disorders clinics. The context of our application however, is that without clarity as to the definition of psychotherapy, psychotherapy techniques which are extensively used by dietitians, such as cognitive behavioural therapy, may be restricted.

Adjusting insulin levels – we appreciate the support of the OMA in stating that RDs should be able to perform insulin adjustments, however we reiterate that consultation with the rest of the healthcare team including the physician is a standard of dietetic practice, and that delegations/medical directives may not be the most cost-effective and timely way to achieve this.

Treating minor ailments – there is no recommendation within our submission regarding treating minor ailments.

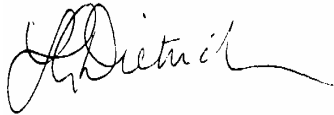
Ordering laboratory tests – the OMA submission states that RDs wish to order lab tests for the purposes of medication management, which is not the primary purpose of this request. Laboratory tests provide essential information used by RDs to assess nutritional status and monitor response to nutrition therapy. In some instances this may include medication management, but that is secondary to other uses.

Collaboration with other healthcare practitioners is required and expected in the practice of Registered Dietitians, and it is professional misconduct to treat, or attempt to treat, a condition which is beyond the expertise of the individual dietitian. As a self-regulated profession, RDs are keenly aware of the limits of competence and will refer a patient to another provider if there are factors that make the situation more complex than the RD can competently treat.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide further information to address these concerns, and would be happy to discuss these issues further with the OMA.



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