

Submitted on behalf of the Registered Dietitians of
York Central Hospital
Diabetes Education Centre

Upon discussion we have agreed that the proposed changes to scope of practice would indeed promote improved patient care in a Diabetes Education Centre for the reasons noted below:

1. eliminate the need for medical directives
2. ability to provide care and education to all patients in a timely manner by avoiding delays in action time which can hinder the implication of the patient care plan – these delays occur on a regular basis when we assess and recommend insulin and/or OHA modification which would benefit the patient immediately, however without the ability to implement the changes immediately delays of several months are often noted
3. allows for the ability to act on an assessment of need when RN is not available, which unfortunately does occur due to shortage of RN resource hours compared to RD resource hours
4. skin prick blood glucose monitoring allows for immediate reinforcement of messages directly related to dietary counseling for diabetes management
5. skin prick blood glucose monitoring is at times an essential step to providing appropriate care, for example if a patient identifies a potential hypoglycemic incident, assessing the severity and need for action relies on performing a skin prick test which may need to occur in the absence of an RN
6. allows for improved continuity of care, improved convenience for the patient, and immediate and streamlined implementation of the entire care plan by avoiding redundancy in patient visits to a variety of health professionals, sometimes located in different facilities
7. allows for a more efficient and comprehensive use of the specialized knowledge and expertise of the diabetes educator RD
8. the absence of appropriate and current laboratory findings means that incomplete data is available for accurate assessment of the patient's current status – inappropriate or inefficient care plan may be implemented due to this lack of data. The ability to requisition lab tests as required would potentially save valuable health care resources (time and funds) again by streamlining the processes