



## New Obligation – Using the RD Title in Your Practice

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The new registration regulation now requires members to identify themselves by their professional designation, “Registered Dietitian” or “RD”, when practising dietetics. The reasons for this new obligation are:

1. **To promote client-centred care:** It shows respect for your clients to let them know who you are – both by name and by profession. Your professional designation informs them about your qualifications to provide dietetic services.
2. **To preserve the client’s rights:** Your clients have the right to make inquiries or complaints to the College about information and services they receive. Their ability to exercise this right depends on them knowing that the person providing services and information is a member of a regulated profession, specifically a member of the College of Dietitians of Ontario.

In *résumé*, Winter 2011, “RD Identification: Help Your Clients Know Who You Are”, we stressed the importance

of clients knowing your name and that you are a Registered Dietitian. The Professional Misconduct Regulation already provides that members must practise using the same name that appears in the *College Register of Dietitians*.

Dietitians in Ontario must now include reference to being a “Registered Dietitian”. At a minimum, all must use the initials “RD” next to their name whenever they are practising dietetics, and also have “Registered Dietitian” or “RD” on the following:

- Work name tag
- Client’s health records
- Business cards
- Letterhead and email signatures
- Websites
- Media and print material dealing with nutrition information and advice
- References in reports and articles on dietetics related topics

## Changes to the Annual Renewal Form

As part of the College’s commitment to continuous quality improvement, you will notice several changes and enhancements to this year’s annual renewal form.

### ADDITIONAL DECLARATION QUESTIONS

As a result of the new registration regulation, RDs will be asked to make additional declarations at the end of their annual renewal form. Members will be required to disclose any charges or findings of guilt in civil or criminal proceedings and other information that might bring into question their suitability to practice of dietetics safely and ethically.

### PROVIDING PROOF OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

For the first time last year, 20% of members were randomly selected to provide proof of liability insurance coverage, in keeping with College By-Law #5. They gave valuable feedback, which has been incorporated in to this year’s processes:

- Notice of random selection to provide proof of liability insurance will be included with the renewal notice rather than in a separate letter.
- The online renewal form will include a reminder to members who have been randomly selected and will show whether the proof of insurance has been received by the College.