

Are Registered Dietitians allowed to transcribe verbal nutrition care orders in public hospitals?



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The College does not have any restrictions on RDs transcribing verbal orders. Verbal orders can expedite the implementation of nutrition care plans and facilitate efficient client-centred care. *The Public Hospitals Act* clearly states that verbal orders can be taken by a person(s) designated by the administrator of a hospital.

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24. (2) A physician, dentist, midwife or registered nurse in the extended class may dictate an order for treatment or for a diagnostic procedure by telephone to a person designated by the administrator to take such orders.

CONSULT POLICIES

RDs should consult their organizational policies to ensure they are following the correct facility protocols surrounding verbal orders. RDs should also ensure there are no policies restricting them from transcribing verbal orders from physicians or other authorized professionals.

DOCUMENT THE VERBAL ORDER

When a verbal order is transcribed, the *Public Hospitals Act* outlines the information that should be documented:

- The order itself
- The name of the physician (or other authorized professional) giving the order
- The date and the time of receiving the order
- The name and signature of the person transcribing the order (i.e., the RD)

AUTHENTICATE ASAP

In addition, the *Public Hospitals Act* requires that every order dictated should be authenticated by the person who dictated it as soon as possible:

24. (1) Every order for treatment or for a diagnostic procedure of a patient shall, except as provided in subsection (2), be in writing and shall be dated and authenticated by the physician, dentist, midwife or registered nurse in the extended class giving the order.

24. (3)(b) The physician, dentist, midwife or registered nurse in the extended class who dictated the order shall authenticate the order on the first visit to the hospital after dictating the order.

For more information on the *Public Hospitals Act* refer to section 24-26 which outlines Orders for Treatment at www.cdo.on.ca > Resources > Legislation: *Public Hospitals Act*