

Alberta's Health Regions and Voluntary Organizations and the Health Sciences Association of Alberta (HSAA)

This classification specification identifies representative duties and responsibilities, and is intended to assist in the determination of the appropriate classification level within each discipline. Some duties and responsibilities may overlap between class levels. The classification specification is not intended to provide an exhaustive list of all duties performed.

Classification Title: **Dietitian/Registered Nutritionist I**

Date Updated: **May 20, 2008**

Job Summary:

The Dietitian/Registered Nutritionist I is the working level professional, responsible for providing expertise in the field of nutrition. In facility settings work focuses on the assessment, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the nutritional and food service care requirements and programs for clients. In community settings work focuses on initiating, planning and providing public health nutrition services, focusing on promoting healthy living and the prevention of disease or on individual based client assessment, development and counseling.

Key Responsibilities and Typical Duties:

Core Duties

- Conducts individual assessments of nutritional status/requirements of the client or community of clients to address dietary and moderate and high risk nutrition concerns as appropriate.
- Develops, coordinates and implements nutritional care plans for individual clients.
- Promotes, monitors and evaluates nutrition care plans or programs compared to plan objectives within a facility or a community.
- Plans, organizes, implements and evaluates nutrition education programs for either individual clients or groups of clients, in a facility or a community.
- Provides expert nutrition advice to healthcare professionals, agencies or community organizations in the planning, delivery and evaluation of nutrition programs.
- Plans and implements individual or population based health programs.
- Identifies, researches, develops, evaluates nutrition and other health related educational resources and materials.
- Collects and maintains data for service indicators, progress reports and evaluations.

Other Related Duties

- Maintains clinical records of nutrition care plans, and prepares reports and statistics.
- Conducts research duties as assigned for various nutrition research projects or research publications as requested.
- May supervise volunteers.

Leadership

- Assists in the selection, training, orientation, performance evaluation and discipline of technical and support staff.
- May provide direction to food service and production staff to ensure provision of appropriate menus, nourishments and food production to clients.
- Collaborates with other members of a multi-disciplinary team around client care and strategies for promotion, prevention, treatment, and research in clinical nutrition care in facility or community settings.
- Acts as a preceptor for Dietitian/Registered Nutritionist students or interns.
- Provides expertise, information and education to professionals, agencies, personnel and individuals in facilities or in the community.
- May assume a leadership role in community initiatives related to nutrition.

Decision-Making

- Develops individual nutrition care plans for clients and reviews plans for any necessary adjustments.
- Assists in evaluating and making recommendations to improve the nutrition care plans or community health programs.
- Designs and recommends post discharge follow-up schedules and nutrition plans.
- Resolves problems with acquisition and distribution of specialty nutrition products.
- Takes initial action in response to unusual or complex cases, situations or concerns and attempts to resolve them, refers concerns to appropriate individual(s) as needed.

Knowledge:

Education

- Bachelor of Science with a major in Foods and Nutrition accredited by the College of Dietitians of Alberta (CDA).

Additional Qualification/Designations/Certifications

- Completion of an internship program or practicum training program that is accredited by the Dietitians of Canada.
- May require special authorization from the College of Dietitians of Alberta (CDA) to perform restricted activities as specified in the regulations.

Registration Requirements

- Registered with the College of Dietitians of Alberta (CDA).

Working Conditions:

Physical Demands

- May be required to stand or sit for extended periods of time.
- Some lifting of equipment and supplies.

Work Environment

- Primarily clean, air controlled indoor environments.
- Community, work, home or school visits will have variable conditions.
- Travel in all weather/road conditions.
- May be subject to verbally and/or physically aggressive clients and family.
- May work occasionally in a kitchen environment.