



# OHIO BOARD OF DIETETICS

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December 4, 2009

To: Licensed dietitian supervising a dietetic technician or nutrition associate

From: The Ohio Board of Dietetics

RE: Competency assessment and continuing education requirements for dietetic technicians and nutrition associates

The Ohio Board of Dietetics has recently enacted rule changes regarding the supervision of dietetic technicians (DT/DTR's) and nutrition associates (NA's). These changes were enacted to provide consistency with ADA's new Standards of Practice in Nutrition Care, Standards of Professional Performance for RD's and DTR's and their clarification of "supervision" as related to dietetic technicians registered. A subcommittee of practitioners from across the state was formed to suggest changes to the Ohio Administrative Rules associated with Standards of Practice and the supervision of the dietetic technician/nutrition associate by the licensed dietitian. Based upon the subcommittee's input, the Ohio Board of Dietetics' drafted the rule changes and they were enacted in July 2009.

Rule 4759-5-01 OAC, "Supervision of Person Claiming Exemption" outlines the responsibilities of the supervising dietitian to assure that dietetic technicians and nutrition associates are qualified and competent to perform the nutrition tasks assigned to them.

The licensed dietitian is responsible to:

- Verify credentials and initial competence of the exempt DT/DTR/NA.
- Provide guidelines for assignments as part of the nutrition care process.
- Establish performance criteria, assign tasks appropriately, direct and monitor the DT/DTR/NA practice.
- Maintain written documentation of initial and on-going competency.
- Assure that the DT/DTR/NA that they supervise engages in life-long learning equivalent to Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) requirements (50 cpeus in 5 years).
- Provide supervision in a manner that protects the public on-site or indirectly as long as the supervising dietitian is immediately available by reliable means.
- Maintain the Standards of Practice in Nutrition Care -Rule 4759-6-01 OAC, and Standards of Professional Performance - Rule 4759-6-02.

The exempt DT/DTR/NA is responsible to:

- Provide documentation of eligibility for exemption as described in section 4759.10 (B) or (E) ORC when requested.
- Demonstrate initial competency to the supervising dietitian prior to being assigned tasks within the nutrition care process.
- Demonstrate on-going competency at least annually or as required.
- Engage in life-long learning equivalent to CDR requirements (50 cpeus in 5 years) and report progress to their supervising dietitian.
- Perform assigned tasks within the nutrition care process in a manner that protects the public.

The Ohio Board of Dietetics has updated and developed guidelines to assist the licensed dietitian in supervising a dietetic technician and nutrition associate.

- Guideline A: Supervision of Exempt Practitioner
- Guideline G: Dietetic Technician
- Guideline I: Assessing Competency

These guidelines can be accessed through the Ohio Board of Dietetics website at [www.dietetics.ohio.gov](http://www.dietetics.ohio.gov) . The Board will also collect and post nutritional care competency assessment tools, checklists and other references to assist the licensed dietitian in their supervision.

It is the supervising licensed dietitian’s responsibility to determine the best approach for monitoring the DT/DTR/NA’s practice and continuing education. The Board suggests that you sit down with those persons who you supervise and discuss the new rules. Then review the guidelines and determine a plan for meeting the initial competency requirement, maintenance of on-going competency and the continuing education requirement.

Options that you may want to consider include:

- Reviewing CPEU’s annually or at the end of a five year period that you establish with the practitioner.
- Consider if the CDR professional development portfolio process will be used.
- Are there certain work-related continuing education programs that could be included?

It is up to you as a team to create a process that works best for your situation and meets the basic requirements of the rules.

The Ohio Board of Dietetics will monitor the supervising licensed dietitian’s compliance with the Supervision of Persons Claiming Exemption Rule 4759-5-01 OAC to assure that the enhanced continuing education requirements are being met by both the exempt practitioners and the supervising dietitian.

On the annual dietitian license renewal application the following question will be asked and must be answered by all those who supervise exempt practitioners:

1. Are you supervising a Dietetic Technician or a Baccalaureate in Dietetics graduate in the practice of dietetics as exempted under Section 4759.10(B)\* or (E)\*\* of the Ohio Revised Code?

\* A person who is a graduate of an associate degree program approved by the American Dietetic Association working as a dietetic technician under the supervision of a dietitian licensed under 4759.06 of the Revised Code...

\*\* A person who has completed a program meeting the academic standards set by the American Dietetic Association for dietitians, received a baccalaureate or higher degree from a school, college or university approved by a regional accreditation agency recognized by the council on post- secondary accreditation.

YES  NO  If “Yes” provide information below:

a. Name of Exempt Person	b. Business Name/Address/ Zip +4/Phone #	c. Title of Exempt Person	d. Check Here		e. CPEU Compliant	
			*4759.10(B)	**4759.10(E)	Yes	No

2. In column e. above indicate if each exempt person you supervise is in compliance with the requirement for continuing education/professional development.

DTR’s=50 cpeus per 5 years certified by CDR (or per schedule established by supervising LD).

Non-registered DT or Nutrition Associate=50 cpeus per 5 years (or per schedule established by supervising LD).

The Board’s intent is to strengthen and better define the relationship between all persons who provide services within the nutrition care process in order to protect the public and provide optimal care.

After reviewing this information, if you should have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Board office at 614-466-3291.

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