

April 2022

CREDENTIALING TIPS – Considerations for RD or RDN Exam Eligible Individuals

Individuals who have been approved by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) for registration examination eligibility, need to consider the below when moving forward with eligibility status.

Exam Candidate Status Before Passing the Exam

The Registered Dietitian (RD®) or Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN®) credential is awarded by the CDR to individuals who meet [specific academic and supervised practice requirements](#) and successfully pass the registration examination for dietitians. NOTE: Eligible Individuals cannot preliminarily use the RD or RDN credential since eligibility to take the entry-level exam is not an indication that an individual will schedule, take or pass the exam.

What does the term *registration eligible* mean?

The term *registration eligible* is used by CDR to identify individuals who have met didactic and supervised practice requirements and have established eligibility to take the registration examination. Verification of exam eligibility status can be provided by emailing cdrexams@eatright.org.

RDE and RDNE Misuse

Exam candidates approved for exam eligibility have agreed to the [CDR RDE or RDNE Misuse Policy](#).

The agreement covers the following:

- RDE is an acronym for Registered Dietitian (RD) Eligible and RDNE is an acronym for Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) Eligible and must **not** be utilized.
- “rd” or “rdn” must not be used in an email address, website domain, or social media handle **prior to** passing the RD or RDN exam. Examples **not** to use until an individual passes exam are:
 - JaneDoe@AspiringRD.com
 - JoeSmith@FutureChefRDN.com
 - JaneDoePursingRDN@gmail.com
 - Jane Doe, RDNE
 - Joe Smith, Registered Dietitian Eligible
- Learn more about CDR’s credential use and misuse policy – See [CREDENTIALING TIPS: Using the RD and RDN and the DTR and NDTR Credential](#).

Nutrition and Dietetics Practice and the Registration Eligible Individual

How a organization handles the registration eligible dietitian nutritionist in an employment role is a facility based decision. Protocols for patient/client/resident nutrition care service functions and electronic health record charting must adhere to Federal regulations in Conditions of Participation, Conditions for Coverage, and Minimum Data Sets. The definitions for qualified dietitian, Registered Dietitian, and clinically qualified nutrition professional list responsibilities and qualifications for Hospitals, Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs), End Stage Renal Facilities, and Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs). To assist in understanding practice parameters, consult Academy’s Quality Management Practice Tips:

- [PRACTICE TIPS: Considerations for the ‘Non-Registered’ Status Individual Practicing in the Nutrition and Dietetics Field](#)
- [PRACTICE TIPS: When to Cosign](#)
- Contact your [State Practice Board](#) or Agency and review the State regulations regarding appropriate title use based on qualifications.

Inquiries: cdrexams@eatright.org