

## **ESSENTIAL PRACTICE COMPETENCIES FOR CDR CREDENTIALLED NUTRITION AND DIETETIC PRACTITIONERS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)**

**Question: What is changing in the Professional Development Portfolio because of the Essential Practice Competencies?**

Answer: The PDP is changing in two important ways:

**First**, to complete Steps 1-3, Professional Self-Reflection, Learning Needs Assessment and Learning Plan, CDR has developed an online Goal Wizard to assist credentialed practitioners with identification of the essential practice competency goals and performance indicators relevant to the RDN or RD, or NDTR or DTR practice. Therefore, practitioners will not need to draft Learning Plan goals. The new essential practice competencies will replace hand-written goals.

**Second**, the Learning Need Codes (LNCs) that practitioners identified in their Learning Plans will be replaced with the performance indicators that practitioners select.

**Question: How does the Goal Wizard identify which essential practice competencies are relevant for a particular practitioner?**

Answer: The Goal Wizard uses a decision algorithm. Based upon the practitioner RDN or RD, or NDTR or DTR and his/her answers to the questions in the Goal Wizard, the algorithm identifies the recommended essential practice competencies for the practitioner.

**Question: What do practitioners do if they do not feel the essential practice competencies identified by the Goal Wizard (Competency Profile) are relevant?**

Answer: Practitioners have an opportunity to modify the essential practice competencies and either delete what they feel is not relevant and/or select additional competencies and performance indicators.

**Question: How does the Goal Wizard identify which performance indicators are relevant?**

Answer: The Goal Wizard lists all of the performance indicators for each essential practice competency. It is the individual practitioner who then can identify the performance indicators relevant to his/her essential practice competency goals.

**Question: Are there any required essential practice competencies?**

In 2011, CDR voted to require that RDNs or RDs, and NDTRs or DTRs complete a minimum of 1 Continuing Professional Education Unit (CPEU) in Ethics during each 5-year recertification cycle. This requirement started with the 5-year recertification cycle which ends on May 31, 2017, and is being phased in over a 5 year period. Learning activities related to Sphere 1, Ethics and Professionalism and Learning Need Code 1050 meet this requirement.

To ensure that practitioners who are using the essential practice competencies do not inadvertently miss this requirement, the Goal Wizard will alert practitioners that the Learning Plan needs at least one practice competency and at least one performance indicator from Sphere 1, Ethics and Professionalism, in order to be submitted to CDR.

**Question: How many essential practice competency goals should be in a Learning Plan?**

Answer: As with the current Learning Plan, most practitioners identify several goals, so it is likely that practitioners may identify several essential practice competency goals to support their learning plan. However, it is only *required* that one competency goal be included in a Learning Plan. If practitioners include only one essential practice competency, it must focus on Ethics and Professionalism.

**Question: How many performance indicators should be in a Learning Plan?**

Answer: Presently practitioners select several learning need codes to meet their learning need goals. The same is likely true for performance indicators. Practitioners will select the indicators that they need to address a practice competency. The Goal Wizard does require that at least one performance indicator be selected for each essential practice competency.

**Question: Do RDNs or RDs, or NDTRs or DTRs need to include all of the essential practice competencies in their learning plan?**

Answer: No. Not all essential practice competencies have to be included in a PDP Learning Plan nor do practitioners need to select all practice competencies or all practice competencies within one sphere.

**Question: How long will it take CDR to approve a learning plan?**

Answer: As soon as the practitioner finishes the Goal Wizard, which includes identification of essential practice competencies and performance indicators, there is an opportunity to submit the plan to CDR. Once submitted to CDR, the learning plan is automatically approved and active.

**Question: Will CDR evaluate which essential practice competencies and performance indicators practitioners select?**

Answer: No. CDR only requires that practitioners develop a learning plan that meets their needs. It is possible that a new RDN or RD, or NDTR or DTR may seek more advanced essential practice competencies in Communications, for example, because he/she brings experience from years working in business before becoming an RDN or RD, or NDTR or DTR. Likewise, an RDN or RD, or NDTR or DTR may seek new, fundamental or less complex essential practice competencies in a new area for him/her, such as Informatics.

**Question: Will CDR still accept the same types of Learning Activities for continuing professional education (CPE)?**

Yes. The CPE Activity Types accepted by CDR are unchanged. They include case presentations, self-study, posters and certificates, among others. Please see CDR's *Professional Development Portfolio Guide* for a complete list of Activity Types.

**Question: How will RDNs or RDs, and NDTRs or DTRs know which Learning Need Codes (LNCs) and Essential Practice Competencies are linked to a particular continuing professional education program?**

Answer: CDR accredited providers are being informed on the transition from LNCs to performance indicators, and are being encouraged to list both relevant LNCs and the performance indicators for each CPE activity until the transition is complete in May 2021.

**Question: Is there a test or evaluation after each CPE?**

Answer: Since the inception of the PDP process, CDR has asked accredited providers to assess the learning outcomes of CPE activities. This does not change because of the essential practice competencies. CDR is working with Accredited Providers as they strive to assess CPE and provide meaningful feedback regarding essential practice competencies and performance indicators to practitioners.

**Question: What is the transition timeline for the profession to move from the current PDP with Learning Need Codes to the PDP with Essential Practice Competencies and Performance Indicators?**

Answer: There will be a phased implementation of the essential practice competencies. All practitioners have a five-year recertification cycle. The only exception to this rule is for newly credentialed RDNs or RDs, or NDTRs or DTRs who receive slightly more than five years for their first recertification cycle after passing their registration exam. The first group to use the essential practice competencies in the PDP will be new RDNs or RDs, or NDTRs or DTRs credentialed June 2, 2015-May 31, 2021 and practitioners recertifying June 1, 2016-May 31, 2021. Annually thereafter, newly credentialed practitioners and those recertifying will begin including essential practice competencies in the PDP. The last group to transition to essential practice competencies will be new RDNs or RDs, or NDTRs or DTRs credentialed June 2, 2019-May 31, 2025 and practitioners recertifying June 1, 2020-May 31, 2025.