

LICENSED DIETITIANS IN WEST VIRGINIA

Protecting Consumers, Improving Health, Positive Return on Investment

YOU SHOULD KNOW LICENSED DIETITIANS ARE...



VALUED, VITAL, INTEGRAL PART OF HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND

- provide medical nutrition therapy in a variety of settings, including hospitals, long term care facilities, outpatient clinics, private practice, where they are a vital part of the healthcare team.
- function in a critical role in the COVID pandemic as many patients are being placed on ventilators where traditional feeding is not possible.
- assess nutrition status and implement nutrition care plans to meet and maintain an individuals unique nutritional needs through oral, tube, or IV feeding.



HEALTH OF WEST VIRGINIANS

Ranked 1st highest in the nation in...

- obesity (37.7% of adults', 21.9% of youth)
- diabetes (15%)
- prevalence of heart attack (7.5%)
- coronary heart disease (8.0%)
- overall cardiovascular disease (14.6%)

Nutrition plays a key role in these conditions. It is important that dietitians remain licensed in order to continue providing vitally needed care to West Virginians.

LOSS OF DIETITIAN LICENSURE

Impact

The public, employers, and insurance companies will not be able to readily identify qualified nutrition professionals.

Impact

Dietitians will no longer legally be able practice at a high level thus adding to an already overburdened health care system.

Impact

Dietitians will be removed from the WV definition of "health care practitioner" which integrates LDs into WV health care regulatory codes (including telehealth) and payment structures.

Impact

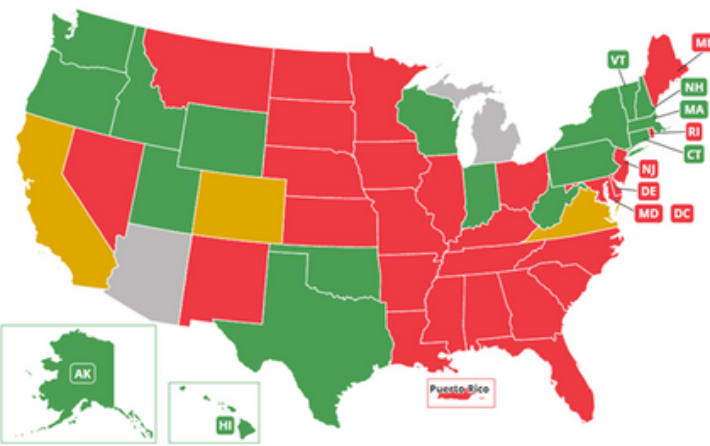
Estimated annual savings just from RDNs having clear legal status to issue therapeutic diet orders in WV \$4,568,464 (2021 dollars) that cannot be saved if dietitians are not licensed.



For more information:
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47 states/US territories have some type of licensure for dietetic professionals.

- No Licensure of Practice or Title
- Practice Exclusivity
- Licensure of Title Only or Certification of RDNs
- Title Protection Without Formal State Regulation



LICENSURE AND WV LAW

- WV law makes it illegal for health care providers to delegate decision making and highly skilled tasks to unlicensed individuals.
- Physicians delegate to dietitians tasks such as swallow screening for dysphagia, insertion of NG feeding tubes, and determining nutrition prescriptions for people who require tube or intravenous feeding or have complex medical issues.
- Delegation to licensed dietitians removes time and fiscal burden to the health care system.

LICENSURE PROTECTS THE WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC

- Licensure is common and virtually mandatory for health care professions and other occupations in which potential harm may result from incompetent or unqualified professionals.
- Licensure helps consumers identify dietitians and nutritionists who meet minimum qualifications.
- Regulation increases safety by mitigating unethical and unsafe practices.
- Standardized criteria facilitate services across states via telehealth.
- In many states, registered dietitian nutritionists, like nurses, physicians, pharmacists, and psychologists must maintain a license to practice.

WV BOARD OF LICENSED DIETITIANS AND COMMISSION ON DIETETIC REGISTRATION

The Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) cannot take on the duties of the West Virginia Board of Licensed Dietitians (WVBOLD).

WV Board of Licensed Dietitians	Commission on Dietetic Registration
West Virginia	National & International
~541 licensed dietitians	>100,000 practitioners
Singular Focus: Protection of public	Divided Focus: Protection of credential, practitioners, and public
Public entity, with licensure law that enables broader class of non-CDR practitioners	Private entity, would be granted monopoly over dietetics practitioners in WV
Enables licensure over a broader class of dietitians without CDR credential.	No authority over non-CDR credentialed practitioners
Self-supported by license fees; no additional funding from state	Supported by Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and credentialing fees
Obligated to report violations to the National Practitioner Data Bank, which tracks adverse actions related to health care practitioners	Does not report to the National Practitioner Data Bank