

NEWS for the Licensed Dietitian



A newsletter published by the Oregon Board of Examiners of Licensed Dietitians

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Special points of interest:

- Congratulations to New Licensees
- LD Benefit
- Oregon Consumer Nutrition Information
- Board Action
- HIPAA Update

BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF LICENSED DIETITIANS

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The Board of Licensed Dietitians has been working on several projects this fall that I want to share with you. One project was initiated in response to a complaint from a group of licensed dietitians in Oregon regarding an instructor who is currently engaged in teaching nutrition courses at a community college. This instructor also offers individual counseling for diabetes, high cholesterol and weight management. According to the instructor's brochure, the description of a "certified diet counselor and nutrition educator" is used. The brochure states that the instructor has a background in holistic health from the Institute for Education Therapy in California. However, because the instructor does not claim to be a licensed dietitian, the Board has no jurisdiction in this matter.

The Board can use this example and its mission "to protect the public's health, safety and well-being" to try to educate the community colleges on hiring licensed dietitians who are recognized food and nutrition experts in the State of Oregon, and who have educational backgrounds defined by the dietitian licensure act. The Board has written a letter to the community colleges in Oregon recom-

mending that they use only licensed dietitians to teach nutrition and medical nutrition therapy courses. An excerpt of the letter follows in this newsletter.

The Board has added a list of licensed dietitians to the website so that employers can verify whether someone is actually a licensed dietitian as claimed. The list can be used to determine qualifications for hiring purposes. Various nutrition-related websites are also being added to assist the public in finding reliable nutrition information.

The Board has prepared a survey to help to meet state requirements for support of racial and ethnic minorities. It will also help to better serve you. We will be asking for your response to this survey soon.

The Board has elected a new Chairman-elect: Linda Graybeal, a public member of the board. She will begin her two-year term as Chairman of the Board on July 1, 2003.

The Board is working hard to fulfill its mission and to meet your needs. Please share with us any concerns or comments that you might have.

~ Madelyn Koontz, RD, LD, Chair

On the Pulse

ADA's cardiovascular MNT bill has 30 sponsors in the Senate and 221 in the House. Even with that outstanding level of support, it does not appear that the measure will be sent to President Bush this year.

According to congressional staff, a number of reasons have foiled efforts for legislatively expanding Medicare MNT this year. The largest obstacle may be funding—the measure has been scored at \$800 million to \$1 billion for a three-year period. But a major impediment has been the large number of health care providers also seeking money for various other provider issues.

With so many issues remaining to be resolved this fall, there are scenarios under which Medicare MNT might be considered or slipped into a measure that will be enacted. However, any realistic evaluation concludes that the MNT cardiovascular bill will not be enacted in 2002. Excerpted from *On the Pulse*, October 04, 2002.

Congratulations To New Licensees

The Board would like to welcome the following newly Licensed Dietitians



ASHLAND

REBECCA ASTELL

COOS BAY

SUSAN KLEMENHAGEN

EUGENE

KATHERINE MARCOTTE

LAKE OSWEGO

CHRISTINE OLINGHOUSE

MEDFORD

DENISE COLLMAN

PORTLAND

JODY ANDERSON

JULEEANNA ANDREONI

CHERYL DOLVEN

SUSAN FILKINS

TRACEY HAMPTON

MELISSA JACOBSON

DAVID LINDSLEY

JENNIFER NIEMEYER

VICTORIA WARREN-

MEARS

GUSTAVO WONG

KATHLEEN YURCHAK

SALEM

SANDRA FRANK

LD Benefit

The Oregon Health & Science University Library has several on-line services which are available exclusively to licensed health professionals in Oregon. Information about these can be found at:

- Services available to non-OHSU employees: <http://www.ohsu.edu/library/services.shtml#outohsu>
- Services for non-OHSU Oregon licensed health professionals: <http://www.ohsu.edu/library/offcampus/nonohsu.shtml>

Resources at the latter link include:

- 1) Access to OVID Medline (which has current abstracts more quickly than PubMed will have them). Users will find a registration form on-line at the page they access with the 2nd URL above.
- 2) The OHSU Library catalog, so you can see if the OHSU library has a book that might help you.
- 3) A list of e-journals free to all (with links).
- 4) Link to Merck-Medicus, a site for MDs and other health professionals with an extensive network of access to tools for patient education and professional development (including approved CME courses); scans of journals, medical and consumer news; and some clinical tools. Many resources are available to those licensed professionals who register at this site. Others require subscription with fees attached.
- 5) E-medicine, a combination textbook-journal that is still free at this time.

Mid-Cycle Licensing Available

Please suggest to registered dietitians who are considering licensure that they contact the Board office or the Board internet site for the materials and requirements. New licenses obtained after October 2002 allow a mid-cycle adjusted-fee structure. This allows licensure for one year at a reduced cost for new licensees. If you have registered dietitian colleagues who are interested, please refer them to the Board office at 503-731-4085 and/or to <http://www.oregon.gov/obeld>.



Oregon Consumer Nutrition Information

The Board has posted the following additional Internet sites for Oregon consumers to access nutrition information.

Food Information Center

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/index.html>

American Diabetes Association

<http://www.diabetes.org/main/application/commercewf>

American Heart Association

<http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=1200000>

Centers for Disease Control

<http://www.cdc.gov/default.htm>

Nutrition Education for New Americans Project

<http://monarch.gsu.edu/multiculturalhealth>

Quackwatch

<http://www.quackwatch.org>

US Dept. of Agriculture Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion

<http://www.usda.gov/cnpp/>

National Heart Lung and Blood Institute

<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/index.htm>

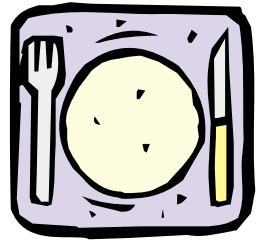
National Academies

<http://www.nas.edu/health/>

These sites are responsible for their own content.

Board Exhibits at Career Fair

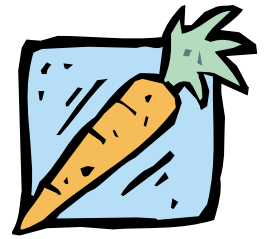
Doug VanFleet, Executive Officer, represented the Board of Examiners at the Oregon Health Career Center's "Health Career Day 2002." The Center, a grantee of the Health Careers Opportunity Program, presents the attraction of health careers to minority and low-income Oregon teens. The Career Day happened at the Oregon Convention Center on October 22, with about 1500 students attending. Perhaps more than 100 students were exposed to the career of the Licensed Dietitian.



HIPAA Update

The Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) goes into effect April 2003. HIPAA has caused health care providers and insurance companies to initiate changes in their operational communication processes. The Act is designed primarily to protect health insurance coverage for workers and their families when they change or lose jobs. It is also designed to standardize digital naming and codes across the health care industry so computers can transmit standardized and simplified electronic information. A provision in the Act addresses personal health information confidentiality. Consumers want their health care information held in appropriate confidence, and the Act assures this. HIPAA regulations also allow civil and criminal penalties for violation of the confidentiality provision. As health care providers, Licensed Dietitians should be aware of HIPAA, and assure that the confidentiality of patient-specific information received or sent electronically is held to defined

standards. The standards apply to electronically transmitted information, including fax, electronic mail, computer generated print outs, and data in computers. For Licensed Dietitians employed by health care facilities, it is likely that a department or person has been identified to assist in organizational compliance with the Act. For those self-employed, the LD will want to be familiar with HIPAA, and evaluate operational practices accordingly. LDs not working with clients' personal health information may not need to review HIPAA but should be aware of it. Internet sites and educational programs provide more information. To learn more: <http://cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/>
(Partial reprint of BLD News Spring 2001)

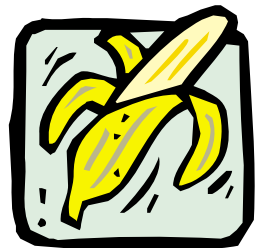


State Asks Board for Licensee Information

The Board of Examiners of Licensed Dietitians is under a State of Oregon mandate to improve health care access by racial and ethnic minorities. To achieve this end, we ask that you consider answering some related questions on a purely voluntary basis. The data will be used to report to the Oregon Legislative Assembly. No personal information will be reported. The questions will be sent to you in the form of a short survey.

Joint ODA/WSDA meeting in 2003

The presidents of the Washington and Oregon Dietetic associations have announced a joint meeting in 2003. The meeting will be at the Oregon Convention Center, in conjunction with the Northwest Food Show. Registration and Food Show access will be available beginning Saturday afternoon, March 29. Meeting dates are Sunday, March 30, and Monday, March 31. Contact the Oregon Dietetic Association office for more information: PO Box 6497, Portland, Oregon 97222, 503-408-6448.



Board Presence at ODA

The Licensure Board displayed information and resources at the Oregon Dietetic Association Annual Meeting in April 2002. Registered dietitians were able to obtain LD registration packets, ask questions and learn more. The Board plans to have a display at the 2003 ODA/WSDA Annual meeting as well.

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
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*The mission of the Oregon State Board of Examiners of
Licensed Dietitians is to protect the public's health, safety
and well being by regulating licensed dietetic practice.*