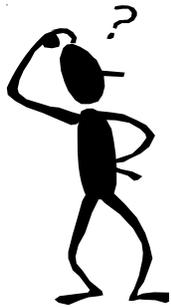


# LICENSED DIETITIANS IN OHIO

## Facts Consumers Need To Know



Published by: The Ohio Board of Dietetics

### **What is a Licensed Dietitian? Who may use the title “Dietitian”, and**

An Ohio licensed dietitian applies the principles of nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, chemistry, food management, behavioral and social sciences to achieve, maintain, or improve people’s health. A licensed dietitian will use the “Licensed Dietitian” or “L.D.” credential in professional communications. Many of Ohio’s licensed dietitians may also be registered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration, which is a national credentialing agency of the American Dietetic Association. They frequently use the “Registered Dietitian” or “R.D.” credential in combination with the Ohio license “R.D., L.D.”

### **What educational requirements have Ohio licensed dietitians met?**

Ohio dietitians holding Limited Permits have completed an approved program and received a bachelor’s degree in nutrition or dietetics and a minimum 900-hour supervised practice experience. After completion of a state approved examination the dietitian is eligible for a full license.

Dietitian licensure sets minimum standards. Employers are free to add additional requirements, e.g. requiring advanced degrees or work experience in particular areas. In order to renew a license, Ohio dietitians are required to complete 75 hours of continuing education every five years. Many dietitians hold advanced degrees or certifications in nutrition or other closely related areas. They may focus their practice in specialty areas like diabetes education ,nutrition support, research, public health, etc.

### **Who may use the title “Dietitian”, and “L.D.” or “Limited Permit” “L.P.”?**

Only a person licensed by the Ohio Board of Dietetics may use these titles. Additionally, persons practicing dietetics and using the titles “Nutritionist”, Nutrition Counselor”, or “Nutrition Consultant ” must be licensed.

### **Where do licensed dietitians work?**

Licensed dietitians work in their own private practices, physicians offices, health care facilities like hospitals, residential and nursing homes, schools, government health programs, food and food product sales, and industry.

### **What Services do licensed dietitians offer?**

- Licensed dietitians:
- > Assess nutritional needs and food patterns
  - > Make recommendations for appropriate food and nutrient intake to prevent and cure disease and restore health
  - > Provide nutritional education and counseling to advise people on appropriate dietary intake and changes
  - > Develop nutritional care standards for individuals and groups
  - > Plan for and direct the provision of food in institutions and community settings.

## What conditions do licensed dietitians treat?

Licensed dietitians assess nutritional needs based on height, weight, age, activity level, and special circumstances related to medical conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, obesity, and allergies. Dietitians work with clients and other household members to develop diet plans that can reasonably be incorporated into one's daily life. Sometimes dietitians may make referrals to other professionals or agencies that can assist the client.

Dietitians may also use other working titles like nutritionist, clinical nutritionist, nutrition consultant, or nutrition counselor that describe their professional focus.

## May only a licensed dietitian perform nutritional services in Ohio?

Nutritional assessment, education, counseling and development of standards should be provided by appropriately licensed dietitians in Ohio. There are specific exemptions for licensed health professionals and others engaged in nutrition related activities and businesses including nutrition education, public programs, dietetic technology, food, food product and dietary supplement sales, and weight control programs. As a prudent consumer, you should verify the credentials of persons providing you with nutrition advice.

## ➤ To Verify an Ohio License:

Ohio licensed dietitians will either have a license or Limited Permit license. The holder of either type of license should have a license I.D. card in their possession that includes the professional's name, and dates of the licensure period. The card displays the official seal of the Ohio Board of Dietetics. Additionally, some dietitians may also display their original Ohio license certificate, licenses from other states, other certifications and membership certificates to professional organizations.

To verify license information, one may contact the office of the Ohio Board of Dietetics, or verify on-line using our website.

## ➤ How to contact OBD:

Ohio Board of Dietetics General Information

Phone: (614) 466-3291

Fax: (614) 728-0723

e-mail: [kay.mavko@exchange.state.oh.us](mailto:kay.mavko@exchange.state.oh.us)

Web Page: [dietetics.ohio.gov](http://dietetics.ohio.gov)

➤ The Consumers Guide to the Ohio Board of Dietetics is designed to answer questions you might have as a consumer, as well as tell you what the Ohio Board of Dietetics can do for you.

It is hoped that the information provided will encourage you to contact the Ohio Board of Dietetics when you have legitimate concerns about a dietitian or other nutrition care provider.

## ➤ How to File a Complaint:

Consumer complaints are an important and direct source of information about the competency of health care professionals and the quality of care they provide.

To file a complaint about the professional conduct of an Ohio dietitian or other person practicing nutrition and dietetics without a license:

Download a complaint form from the OBD website: [dietetics.ohio.gov](http://dietetics.ohio.gov)

Call 1-614-466-3291 and request a complaint form

Or e-mail:

[kay.mavko@exchange.state.oh.us](mailto:kay.mavko@exchange.state.oh.us)

Make sure that you have the licensee's name, address or location of the activity, and details of your complaint available so that we can ensure accuracy.