

## LICENSURE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FOR DIETETIC TECHNICIANS

July, 2010

**Q: *What is licensure and what are its benefits?***

A: Licensure combines state-recognized title protection with scope of practice protection. While our current certification statute prevents non-certified nutritionists from legally calling themselves dietitians, licensure also gives the state the authority to discipline unqualified persons practicing dietetics without a license.

**Q: *What is the history of licensure in other states relating to DTRs?***

A: Only Maine has licensed DTRs.

**Q: *Why wasn't the DTR included in licensure?***

A: DTRs are included in WDA's licensure bill. While DTRs will not themselves be licensed, DTRs working under the supervision of an RD may practice dietetics without a license.

**Q: *Should we/will we pursue licensure for the DTR once licensure is approved for the RD?***

A: Once the RD licensure bill becomes law, DTRs will find the pursuit of licensure unnecessary and impractical. Licensure of the RD automatically incorporates nutrition care services provided by the DTR. Moreover, any state-held credential (licensure or certification) comes with semi-annual fees; by being covered within the dietitian statute, DTRs will not need to pay for an additional credential.

**Q: *Why should the DTR support licensure?***

A: RDs need your support to pass licensure legislation. Without licensure's scope of practice protection, unconventionally trained or untrained individuals will continue to hold themselves out as nutrition experts, placing the public at risk and threatening RDs' and DTRs' livelihood(s).

**Q: *What can the DTR do to support licensure for the RD?***

A: Ask questions and become informed, so that when your colleague or neighbor asks why this is needed, you can respond with confidence. When the licensure bill is up for a vote in committee or on the floor of the Senate or Assembly, we'll need as many members and concerned citizens as possible to contact legislators and urge their support. Becoming part of WDA's grassroots network assures that you will have the information you need when you need it to make these contacts.