

**MORE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT LICENSURE**  
**Wisconsin Dietetic Association**

July 2010

**Q: *What happened to our licensure bill?***

A: Neither SB 115 nor AB 440 was scheduled for a floor vote by the end of the 2010 legislative session; consequently our licensure bill “died” this term. Although many emails and phone calls were made to state legislators in support of dietitian licensure, opponents were even more vocal. Legislators became confused by conflicting information from a small but vocal minority of “health freedom advocates,” preventing ultimate passage of the bill.

**Q: *Why is licensure of significance to the DTR?***

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. 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.

**Q: *Our hospital’s RNs provide drug-nutrient/food interaction teaching as part of our team approach to patient care. Will licensing of dietitians make this illegal?***

A: No, our licensure bill will not make this illegal. Registered Nurses and other qualified professionals who provide drug-nutrient/food interaction advice to patients within their scope of practice and course of treatment will continue to be able to do so.

**Q: *Will our licensure bill, when enacted, prevent PhD nutrition scientists and professors from calling themselves nutritionists?***

A: A nutrition professor or other academic who is not a registered and licensed dietitian would be prohibited from providing medical nutrition therapy or advertising himself/herself to the public and patients as a licensed dietitian who practices dietetic nutrition therapy for compensation. They will be able to call themselves a “nutritionist”.

**Q: *Will I have to report 2 years of continuing credits to the Department of Regulation and Licensing when I apply for licensure renewal?***

A: No. Registered dietitians will simply need to show proof of current registration status with the Commission on Dietetic Registration, credentialing agency of the ADA.

**Q: *Will I have to pay licensure fees before my certification term expires?***

A: Unlikely. Once passed, at least one year will be needed to draft administrative rules before the bill can be implemented. While we are uncertain as to when new licensure fees would be imposed, certified dietitians would likely be credited for certification fees already paid for a period that overlaps with the new licensure term.