

## **NDTR Credential: Frequently Asked Questions -DPD Program Graduates August 2014**

### **What is the new optional NDTR credential?**

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Board of Directors has approved the optional use of the credential "Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered" (NDTR) by Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) graduates who successfully complete DTR Pathway III which requires *Completion of a Baccalaureate degree granted by a U.S. regionally accredited college/university, or foreign equivalent, and completion of an DPD*. After successfully passing the NDTR exam, credentialed individuals will be required to comply with CDR recertification requirements, the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Dietetics and the Standards of Practice.

In 2015, CDR will conduct a practice audit to differentiate practice parameters of NDTRs (DTRs) and RDNs. The results will provide valuable information about evolving practice roles to inform future deliberations on title, practice role and examination for NDTRs.

More information on the NDTR credential will be made available as it is developed. All members and students who are interested in the NDTR credential should visit

<http://www.cdrnet.org/certifications/registration-eligibility-requirements-for-dietetic-technicians>.

This credentialing model follows the nursing model (the RN examination is open to AS, BS, and MS prepared individuals). Individuals who have earned the DTR credential could choose to retain this credential or adopt the NDTR; those with the four year degree likewise could choose BS-DTR or BS-NDTR.

### **Why is the Academy offering the optional Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered credential?**

The Board supports this new credentialing option to build upon the existing DTR Pathway III and differentiate between degree levels to obtain the credential Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered (PhD, MS, BS or AS-NDTR). The NDTR provides several advantages, including:

- maintaining the integrity of current professional designations (RDN, RD, NDTR, DTR)
- providing a timely opportunity for eligible DPD graduates to become certified and to remain connected to the Academy, and
- allowing the Academy to collect and analyze data on the utilization and practice roles of NDTRs.

There is an increased awareness of the Academy's role as a key organization in food and nutrition by media, government agencies, allied health organizations and consumers. For instance, the Academy has noted an increase in the number of media impressions (print, broadcast and electronic) from the Academy's media outreach activities. Twenty billion media impressions were obtained in 2011, prior to the Academy's name change; contrasted with 30 billion impressions after the name change from the American Dietetic Association to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics during the first six months of 2012 alone.

This provides additional rationale for the incorporation of the word "nutrition" into the DTR credential resulting in the optional NDTR credential.

**I am not currently a NDTR, how do I find more information about obtaining the NDTR credential?**

Please visit the CDR website at [www.cdrnet.org/certifications/registration-eligibility-requirements](http://www.cdrnet.org/certifications/registration-eligibility-requirements) for-dietetic-technicians or contact CDR at 1-800-877-1600 ext. 4764 or ext. 4781.

**Does the NDTR have a different meaning than the DTR credential?**

No. The DTR and NDTR credential have identical meanings and legal trademark definitions.

**How should the new credential be used for signatures and materials such as business cards?**

Refer to the credential placement guidelines available at the following link <https://www.cdrnet.org/vault/2459/web/files/CredentialPlacementGuidelines.pdf>

**Will the CDR registration ID card include NDTR credential?**

Yes. Effective September 1, 2014 all registration ID cards for newly credentialed NDTRs will reflect both the NDTR and DTR credentials.

**How does the new NDTR credential fit into the Academy's ongoing branding and marketing efforts?**

The Academy is modifying its existing branding marketing efforts to strengthen and differentiate the NDTR.