

Making the RD Part Your HIV Medical Health Care Team

How to locate a registered dietitian

- www.eatright.org: Find a Dietitian
- www.dietitian.org: Find a Nutrition Professional

Qualifications of the HIV Nutrition provider

- Meet basic qualifications of the registered dietitian (RD and additionally:
- Membership and participation in HIV/AIDS Dietetic Practice Group of the American Dietetic Association.
- Participation in local meetings with other dietitians in HIV care such as Dietitians in AIDS Care in Los Angeles.
- Ongoing continuing education in HIV nutrition as well as HIV related medical updates. While there are no criteria established, we recommend 25 continuing professional education credits per year.

Legal Authority

- Registered dietitians may provide medical nutrition therapy upon referral from a health care provider who is authorized to prescribe dietary treatment. In California, those authorized to prescribe treatments include physicians, surgeons, osteopaths, physician assistants, or dentists (California Business & Professions Code, chapter 5.65, sections 2585 & 2586, <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/waisgate?WAIISdocID=20227317138+0+0+0&WAIISaction=retrieve>).
- California Business & Professions Code, chapter, 5.65, section 2068 prohibits anyone from practicing medicine or from providing nutrition advice to treat or cure a disease or disorder unless they are legally designated to do so. Individuals who are not specified under California law as being able to provide medical nutrition therapy may not provide it as part of a client's medical treatment, to do so would be considered practicing medicine without a license.
- The registered dietitian is qualified and permitted by California Law to perform medical nutrition assessment and therapy. Under Medi-Cal managed care, the registered dietitian is the only nutrition professional defined for participation in this program (Medi-Cal Managed Care RFA Section 14, page 4, glossary definition 5, Addendum #6, February 24, 1995).
- US Department of Health and Human Services guidelines call for the client to be entered into a continuum of care that includes nutrition services.
- Los Angeles County Department of Health Services developed standards of care and a continuum of care services model, which includes nutrition services provided by a registered dietitian as part of the Primary Health Care Core. Los Angeles County Commission on HIV Health Services, *Guidelines for Implementing HIV Medical Nutrition Therapy Guidelines* Approved 9/9/1999.

When and how to refer

See Nutrition Services Screening/Referral form for criteria on when to refer. <http://www.hivaidsdpg.org/> under public policy or contact Janelle L'Heureux at jlheureux@apla.org

Reimbursement

- Medical nutrition therapy is a covered service for diabetes under Medicare Part B, as well as the California Health and Safety Code (section 1367.51) and the Insurance Code (section 10176.61). (See www.dietitian.org.) Medicare Part B also covers pre-end stage renal disease.
- Reimbursement is an obstacle for provision of continued nutrition care by a registered dietitian. We encourage you to make known the need for covered services of a HIV knowledgeable registered dietitian to your state and federal representatives (www.congress.org).

APLA's commitment to educating others about HIV nutrition

- APLA provides an annual Nutrition in HIV Care Conference

Dietitians in AIDS Care in Los Angeles: Quarterly meetings held in Los Angeles and access to electronic list serve. Contact Marcy Fenton MS RD @ mfenton@ladhs.org.