

Looking for Insurance Policies for Dietitians? Get Tailored Coverage with MedThree

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Supporting healthy living for all Canadians is a multidisciplinary effort. No two healthcare professions are alike, but few insurance providers offer coverage to reflect these specific needs. That is why at MedThree we tailor our solutions to the unique needs of each specific healthcare discipline. One of the regulated healthcare professions we are proud to highlight is dietitians.

A dietitian is a regulated health professional who specializes in identifying and treating disease-related malnutrition and conducting medical nutrition therapy, such as designing a nasogastric feeding regimen. Dietitians are the only regulated healthcare professionals licensed to assess, diagnose, and treat such problems.

Read on to learn about the unique role and risks that come with this vital healthcare profession.

About Dietitians

Dietitians are a complex and varied category in the healthcare sector. Dietitians may work alone in a clinic or private practice to provide nutrition counselling, helping patients to prevent and treat some health conditions like diabetes and heart disease. Some clinical dietitians will also create or deliver outpatient or public education programs in health and nutrition and help contribute to public policy.

A Registered Dietitian (RD) is a legally protected title in Canada. This means that in order to use this title dietitians must undergo comprehensive and rigorous training, both on the job and in university, and must be registered with the dietetic regulatory body in the province in which they practice. Clinical dietitians work in hospitals, outpatient clinics, nursing care facilities, and other health care facilities to provide nutrition therapy to patients with a variety of health conditions and provide dietary consultations to patients and their families. They draw from the most up-to-date science to guide patients in making healthy lifestyle and food choices.

When insuring any healthcare profession, it is important to consider not just the individual roles and responsibilities, but also the clinical and other teams with which they may be in contact. Dietitians may work in a team with physicians, physician assistants, physical therapists, occupational therapists, recreational therapists, pharmacists, speech therapists, social workers, nurses, dietetic technicians, psychologists, and other healthcare professionals to provide care to patients. Some clinical dietitians even have dual responsibilities with patient nutrition therapy and in foodservice or research.

Liability Risks and Exposures

Dietitians face many liability risks when working with patients or as part of a multidisciplinary team.

Poor patient outcomes: Whether it be a decline in a client's health after using a dietitian's services or simply a lack of results, dietitians are always at risk of claims made against them from their patients.

Some clients may go as far as to launch a malpractice suit or claim the RDN's advice or failure to provide it caused them harm. This includes accusations of negligence, misrepresentation, failure to provide a service, breach of privacy, and more.

A dietitian may offer sound advice to their patient, but if the patient becomes ill by not following directions, this can still leave the dietitian vulnerable to lawsuits that could be financially devastating.

Multiprofessional team environments: There is room for miscommunication, misunderstandings, perceived negligence, or harm when a dietitian works in an advisory or consulting role.

Errors: It is possible to suggest a diet plan that is well recommended by a significant amount of research and still have the patient become sick. There is also a risk of mistakenly advising a patient to eat a product containing peanuts, which they listed as an allergy in their intake form. Should they suffer anaphylactic shock, they might decide to sue the dietitian for negligence.

Lastly, there is also a risk for error in medical decisions a dietitian might make with a patient at a hospital. An intake error or misdiagnosis could result in a costly lawsuit for them.

Data and privacy: Storing client data carries its own unique risks as well. As we've seen the past few years, there have been some major breaches into patient records.

The Medthree Advantage

If you are a broker looking for tailored coverage and advice for Canada's healthcare markets, MedThree Insurance can help. Our deep expertise in underwriting Canada's healthcare sector makes it easy for brokers to find the right coverage their clients need to safeguard their reputation, facilities, and livelihood.

To learn more about our full range of healthcare and life sciences insurance products, visit us at <https://medthreeinsurance.com/>

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