



Certified Practicing Nutritionist Role Statement – Interprofessional/Multidisciplinary Care

- *Mapped to the National Interprofessional Competency Framework*

This role statement defines how Certified Practicing Nutritionists (CPNs) function within interprofessional/multidisciplinary care, outlining the specific ways their competencies contribute to collaborative, client-centred practice. It demonstrates how CPNs can work alongside other professionals through clear communication, shared decision-making, and mutual respect for roles and responsibilities.

1. Role Clarification

Certified Practicing Nutritionists (CPNs) have a clear understanding of their own scope of practice and how it integrates with that of other health and social care professionals. They articulate their professional boundaries and actively identify, access, and collaborate with other health care services.

CPNs respect and value the diverse roles within the interprofessional team and communicate using appropriate terminology, ensuring that communication facilitates collaboration in a way that is both effective and respectful of cultural and professional differences. They demonstrate a capacity to refine their own practice by seeking the perspectives and input of others, thereby promoting an integrated approach to health care that is responsive to individual client needs and aligned with team objectives.

2. Patient/Client/Family/Community-Centred Care

Central to the CPN's role is the prioritisation of clients as active partners in care. CPNs adopt a person-centred model that respects the autonomy and voice of clients and their families. They collaborate with clients to identify health goals, explore expectations, and clearly explain the parameters of the CPN role and scope of practice.

CPNs ensure that treatment strategies are co-designed with clients, with ample opportunity for discussion and clarification of responsibilities. This participatory approach extends to shared decision-making and supports clients in navigating their health journey with knowledge, confidence, and dignity. Educational components of nutritional care are tailored to enhance understanding and promote client independence, while any challenges or concerns are addressed compassionately.

3. Team Functioning

Within team-based care settings, CPNs contribute to effective collaboration by fostering trust, shared values, and mutual respect in accordance with the professional standards of a CPN. They bring a commitment to the principles of team development. They participate in decision-making with integrity and empathy and support the development of strong team relationships across professional disciplines.

The CPN maintains confidentiality, responds to team difficulties constructively, and promotes inclusive and culturally safe environments. They evaluate their own performance within team processes and contribute to ongoing team development through mentoring, knowledge-sharing, and feedback. The goal is not only to fulfil individual clinical duties but to contribute meaningfully to the team's collective performance and cohesion.

4. Collaborative Leadership

CPNs actively engage in shared leadership models by promoting inclusive decision-making and quality improvement. Using their leadership-related competencies, CPNs help create a climate that fosters collaboration and mutual support. They facilitate contributions from others, implement support strategies for team members, and handle conflicts or system-level barriers to collaboration with professionalism and fairness. By evaluating practice outcomes and seeking feedback, CPNs support continuous quality improvement and evidence-informed practice. In doing so, they not only contribute to patient outcomes but can help evolve interprofessional/multidisciplinary care models.

5. Interprofessional Communication

Effective communication is foundational to the CPN's role within interprofessional/multidisciplinary care. Through contributing to effective workplace relationships, and establishing and managing client relationships, and engaging with other health professionals and the health system, CPNs establish shared understanding with both clients and colleagues.

CPNs convey information clearly, respectfully, and using industry-appropriate terminology. Communication strategies are adapted to diverse needs, ensuring inclusivity and comprehension. CPNs confirm understanding, maintain confidentiality, and structure information logically for a range of stakeholders. Whether in written referrals, care planning discussions, or team briefings, CPNs are trained to ensure that communication supports cohesion and coordinated service delivery.

6. Interprofessional Conflict Resolution

In addressing conflict, CPNs embrace a positive, proactive stance. They understand that disagreements may arise in the complex environments of interprofessional/multidisciplinary practice and utilise their professional competencies to contribute to effective workplace relationships, work with diverse people, and maintain an effective health work environment, to resolve issues constructively.

They use communication and empathy to identify underlying causes of conflict and apply established organisational protocols to mediate and resolve differences. By fostering a culture of safety and openness, CPNs support an environment where all voices are heard and respected. Whether resolving interpersonal concerns or addressing system-level ambiguities in roles or responsibilities, they strive for collaborative solutions that uphold client care as the shared priority.

Summary

Certified Practicing Nutritionists can play a vital, integrated role within interprofessional/multidisciplinary care environments. Grounded in collaborative communication, and person-centred values, they contribute to cohesive care delivery and positive health outcomes. The professional skill set of a CPN both supports individual health goals and enhances team dynamics and interprofessional collaboration across health professionals.