



Washington Association of Diabetes Educators

(The following are frequent asked questions about licensure for diabetes educators:

1. Why is licensure needed since most individuals working as diabetes educators (DE) are already licensed in their basic profession etc.; registered nurse, registered dietician, pharmacist and exercise physiologists?

Answer: The problem is the professional's basic scope of practice is specific to that profession and does not include all the elements of DE. Professionals who practice as DEs do so under a broader scope. For example: RDs working as DEs often adjust insulin doses and teach blood glucose testing that necessitates pricking the skin. These procedures are not part of the RD's basic scope of practice as listed in RCW 18.138.010. However, if licensed as a DE they would be then work under a scope of practice as set forth in the proposed HB 1573.

2. How will licensure for DE insure the public from harm since this is the primary purpose of licensure?

Answer: By regulating the practice of diabetes education provided the public would be assured of the accuracy and consistency of the training, education, mentoring and advice for diabetes self management. The law thereby providing this assurance of public safety would prosecute those who assume the role of DE without proper training and experience and could potentially give incorrect and un-standardized information/training.

3. Are there any other reasons why licensure may benefit diabetes educators?

Answer: Although not the official reason for licensure, with upcoming changes in health care reimbursement, licensure may help gain Medicare recognition of the credentialed diabetes educator. A barrier to gaining provider status for the diabetes educator is that there is no legal definition (scope of practice) for the profession.

For more answers to frequently asked questions:

http://wadepage.org/files/licensure/licensure_QA__posted-4-25-13.doc

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<http://www.doh.wa.gov/AboutUs/ProgramsandServices/HealthSystemsQualityAssurance/SunriseReviews.aspx>