



Decision Tree Framework

Scenarios to Demonstrate its Use

Presented by Marissa Van Engelen to the QA Committee
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ADA Decision Tree

- ▶ **When do I use the decision tree?**
 - When you are trying to decide if a requested act or service (i.e. assuming responsibility for instructing patients with diabetes on insulin pump usage) falls within your individual scope of practice
 - To validate your ability to perform this act or service



Scenario #1

- ▶ After retiring from twenty-years as an administrative dietitian in a nursing home you have decided to open your own private practice. One of your first patients is a young girl who wants to improve her eating habits and she appears to have body image issues. After your assessment of the patient, you identify 'red flags' and think she might be suffering with an eating disorder. What are your next steps?



Scenario #1



Is it permitted?
Yes.

Do you personally have the education needed?

No. Treating clients with eating disorders requires specialized training. Although you may have had exposure to treating eating disorders in your internship you do not possess the required training. For clarification you can refer to the current standards.

STOP!

It is unlikely you will acquire the current knowledge needed in a timely fashion. You should speak to other dietitians familiar with eating disorders to explore the 'red flags' and make a referral.



Scenario #2

- ▶ You have worked as a diabetes educator for many years and have recently moved to a clinical role within a nursing home. Although you feel very comfortable and confident adjusting insulin and teaching patients to use a pump, your new employer has made it very clear that this is not your role on the team. You strongly believe that a patient's insulin needs to be adjusted, what do you do?



Scenario #2



Is it permitted?

Yes it is permitted, but because it is not part of your job description you progress to Question 2.

It is addressed by organizational guidance?

Institution job description/privilegias?

Yes, it is covered by the scope of practice for dietetics but it is not within your personal scope of employment.

Is it reasonable for YOU to do?

No. Again, it is not within your scope of employment so you do not have authority to make your recommended changes.

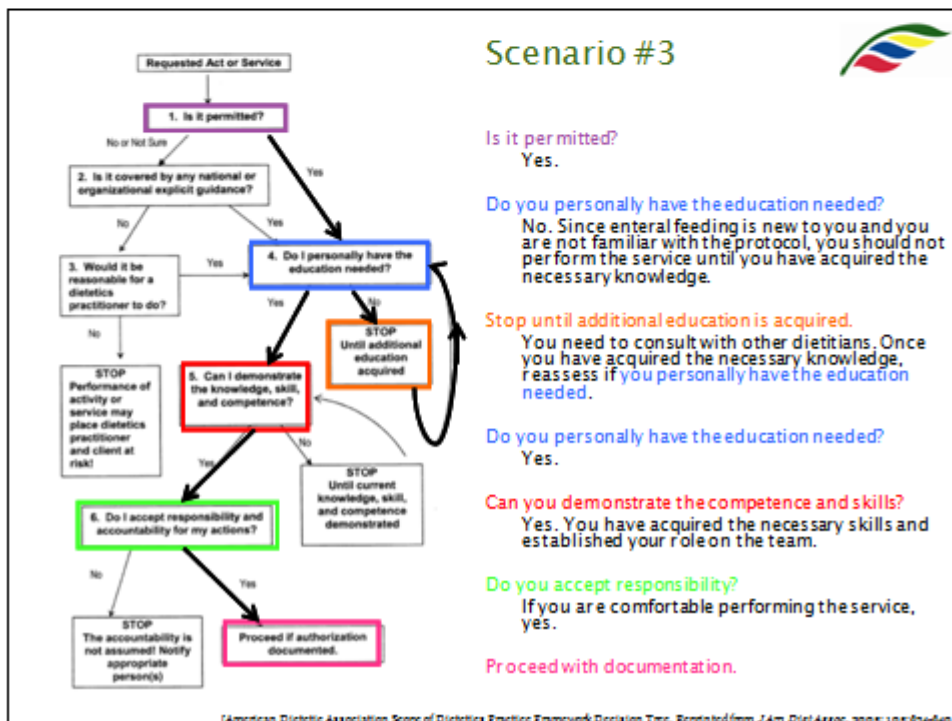
STOP!

Although performing the action may not place the client at risk, it is not your role. You can discuss your suggestions with the appropriate health professional.

Scenario #3



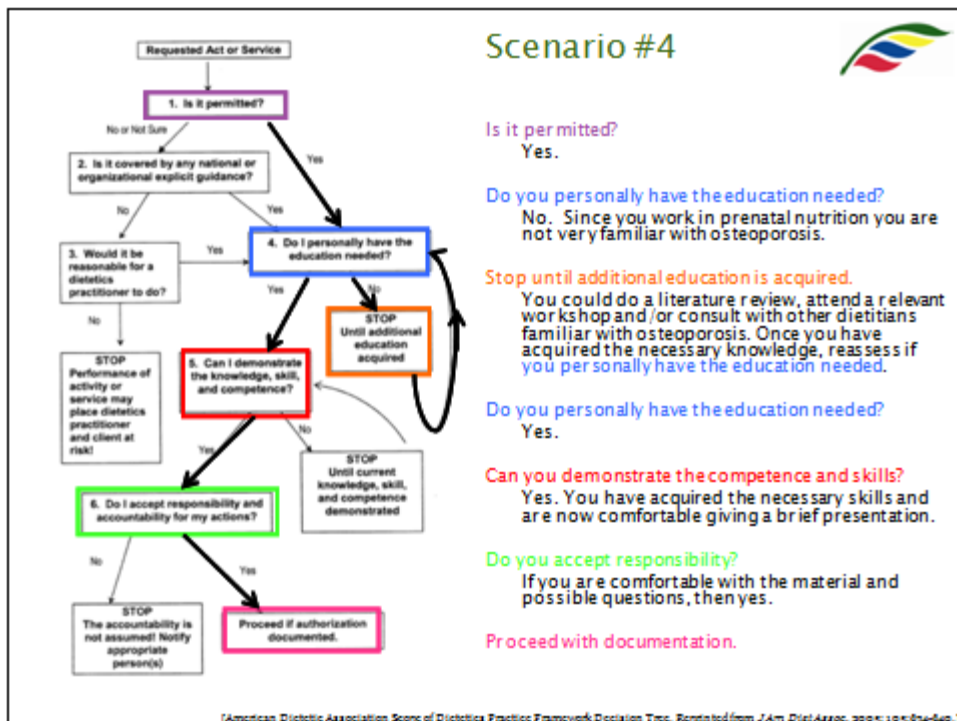
- ▶ A coworker is sick and you are responsible for her patients until she returns to work. After assessment of a patient on enteral nutrition, you decide that the flow rate and formula needs to be adjusted. However, enteral feeding is new to you and you are not familiar with the protocol. What do you do?



Scenario #4



- ▶ You are a public health dietitian working in prenatal nutrition. You were recently asked to do a basic presentation on osteoporosis at next month's Women's Wellness Workshop. What do you do?



Scenario #5



- ▶ You are currently a dietitian working in industry for a company that sells feeding aids to various long-term care facilities around the province. You are going to a new facility tomorrow and the food service supervisor has asked you to give a presentation on dysphagia to her staff as part of your marketing strategy. What do you do?

