

Evidence-Based Decision Making - Online Course

June 15 – December 18, 2009

What is evidence-informed decision making?

Evidence-informed or evidence-based decision making refers to making decisions that affect client/patient care based on the best available evidence. The evidence comes not only from research but also takes into consideration clinical expertise, client preferences and other available resources. There are four steps in incorporating the best available research evidence in decision making: asking answerable questions; accessing the best information; appraising the information for validity and relevance; and applying the information to client/patient care.

Why is it important to base decisions on evidence?

Evidence-informed decision making is an important element of quality care in all domains of dietetic practice. It is essential to optimize outcomes for clients/patients, improve practice, achieve cost-effective nutritional care and ensure accountability and transparency in decision making. Evidence-informed practice helps one to distinguish evidence from propaganda, probability from certainty, data from assertions, rational belief from superstitions and science from folklore.

Who should take this course?

This course is geared towards dietitians working in clinical or community practice. Many of the scenarios included in this course are clinical in nature but several readings and interactivities have been added to ensure that community dietitians have relevant materials for study and application to their practice setting.

Course format

This course is delivered using an Internet Desktop developed by the Centre for Health Evidence, University of Alberta. The Desktop acts as a virtual classroom, offering a common point of access to course readings, handouts, presentations, activities, and other pertinent resources. This private learning environment automatically records participation in learning activities. While the course is self-pacing, it **must be completed** between June 15 and December 18, 2009.

Course objectives

This course is designed to:

- Improve your ability to find, appraise and use evidence appearing in the health sciences literature
- Learn rules of evidence supporting decisions and what works in health care

Introductory course (modules 1-4, minimum time required: 15 hrs)

Those wishing to learn the basic concepts of evidence-based decision making can do so by registering for the first 4 modules. This course will introduce participants to the basic concepts and controversies of evidence-based practice.

Intermediate course (modules 5-9, minimum time required: 35 hrs)

Those who completed the introductory course in the past, can continue with the remaining modules. The Intermediate course is comprised of modules 5 – 9.

This segment of the course will build on the concepts learned in modules 1 to 4 that have already been completed.

Participants will learn how to acquire evidence, critically review research, appraise practice guidelines and modify process using evidence-based decision making.

Full course (modules 1-9, minimum time required: 50 hours)

The full course combines the modules of the Introductory course with those of the Intermediate course to provide a complete overview of evidence-based approaches.

These evidence-based approaches can be applied to health policy making, public health, systems-level decisions as well as those involving individual client care. Experiential learning is emphasized with several nutrition-specific cases and appraisal exercises featured throughout the course.

To view the complete course outline visit http://www.dieteticsatwork.com/course_overview.pdf

A certificate of completion is provided to course participants. Please note that **eighty percent** of interactivities must be completed in order to receive a course certificate.

“What a wonderful course. I wish there was a way to convince all dietitians to take it.

I loved the presentations, the readings and the book! I’m just so impressed.” - Heather Petrie



Minimum system requirements*

- High speed Internet connection
- Windows 2000 or later operating system (Windows XP or Vista strongly recommended)
- Internet Explorer 6.0 or later (IE 7.0 is supported)
- Current version of Adobe Flash Player
- Current version of Adobe Reader
- Display with 1024-by-768 (or higher) resolution, 16K colours or better
- Sound card

* Please note: This is a Windows based course. Mac computers are not supported.

Terms and conditions

There is a required textbook for this course: The Users' Guides to the Medical Literature: Essentials of Evidence-Based Clinical Practice, Second Edition by Gordon Guyatt, Drummond Rennie. All participants in the course are required to purchase a print edition. The cost of the book is included in the course fee but you will need to grant us permission to release your mailing address so the publisher can mail the book to you.

While there is a defined time in which participants must take the course, participants can access the content and proceed through the modules at their own pace as long as they download the course Internet Desktop **no later than June 26, 2009** and complete the course **by December 18, 2009**.

Note: Even if you do not plan to start the course right away, *it is imperative* that you test your system by accessing the first module to ensure that there are no technical issues that will prevent you from completing the course within the allocated time frame. There are **no extensions** or transfers to subsequent course offerings.

To download additional copies of this registration form, visit our website at http://www.dieteticsatwork.com/EB_tutorial_June2009.pdf

Dietitians of Canada reserves the right to cancel a course due to insufficient registration.

How to register

Please complete this form and send it with a cheque or money order to:

Dietitians of Canada (attention: Freny Sethna)
604-480 University Ave, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1V2
Please make cheques payable to Dietitians of Canada.

Registration deadline: May 15, 2009

Once your payment is processed you will receive a confirmation of registration by email and instructions on how to access the course.

Registration fees

Please select the course you want to register for:
Fee includes 5% GST.

Introductory Course (modules 1-4)	Intermediate Course (modules 5-9)	Full Course (modules 1-9)
<input type="checkbox"/> DC Member: \$109 <input type="checkbox"/> Non-member: \$145 <input type="checkbox"/> DC Student Member*: \$93	<input type="checkbox"/> DC Member: \$174 <input type="checkbox"/> Non-member: \$240 <input type="checkbox"/> DC Student Member*: \$130	<input type="checkbox"/> DC Member: \$207 <input type="checkbox"/> Non-member: \$295 <input type="checkbox"/> DC Student Member*: \$158

*DC qualifying member and full-time post graduate student.
Fee receipts will be issued. GST #105200992

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____

DC Member #: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

I have read and understood all of the technical and course requirements including deadlines and accept the terms and conditions of this course. I understand that there are no extensions permitted for this course.

I allow DC to release my mailing address in order to have the textbook mailed to me.

Cancellation policy

Written notice of cancellation is required by May 29, 2009 and will be subject to a \$20 processing fee. For cancellations received after that date, there will be no refunds except in approved exceptional circumstances.

Contact information

Freny Sethna
Dietitians of Canada
604-480 University Ave, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1V2
Tel: 416.642.9305 Fax: 416.596.0603
Email : fsethna@dietitians.ca

"The course is really incredible & the skills I developed will definitely pay off in the near future. DC's done a great job with this course." - Michael Lankin

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