



BANT

British Association for Applied Nutrition & Nutritional Therapy

FUNCTIONAL DIETETICS CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK FAQ

Q: What is Functional Dietetics?

A: See the 'Understanding the Differences' explanatory sheet.

Q: 'Dietitian' is a protected term therefore doesn't the term 'Functional Dietetics' cross over a protected boundary?

A: Only the term 'Dietitian' is protected. It can only be used by a person on the HCPC register of Dietitians. The BANT Curriculum Framework for Functional Dietetics represents an up-to-date option for the application of diet and nutrition in practice to meet the standards set by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

Q: This Framework is the Nutritional Therapy Curriculum so how is it Dietetics and how does it meet the HCPC requirements?

A: The Nutritional Therapy curriculum which meets the CNHC registration standards using the National Occupational Standards for Nutritional Therapy has also been mapped to the HCPC Standards of Proficiency for Dietetics (SOP). The only item in the SOP not covered by the Nutritional Therapy curriculum relates to the understanding of the legal and ethical issues in withdrawal of feeding. The HCPC Dietetics SOP requires an 'understanding' of this point because of the likely placement of Dietitians working in NHS, but not necessarily the implementation of this 'withdrawal of feeding' issue. The BANT Functional Dietetics Curriculum Framework therefore only incorporates the requirement for an 'understanding' of this issue and has been developed from the nutritional therapy curriculum. However it is important to emphasise that individual education programmes are approved by the HCPC based on HCPC standards alone and on a case-by-case basis.

Q: There is no mention of a practice placement in the NHS and dietitians cannot be registered with HCPC without a training placement in the NHS.

A: This is not correct. There is nothing in the legislation which states that registration as a dietitian requires practical training in the NHS. The requirement for understanding the legal and ethical issues surrounding withdrawal of feeding is a 'knowing' and not a 'doing' proficiency.

Q: The British Dietetic Association is the professional association for dietetics and sets the core curriculum to meet the HCPC standards. BANT cannot do this.

A: There is nothing in the legislation that stipulates there can be only one professional association for each section of the HCPC register. All the HCPC requires is that its standards are met. There are four professional associations in chiropody and podiatry working with HCPC.

Q: The HCPC will only approve university courses delivering BSc/MSc Dietetics. It will not approve courses from private training providers.

A: This is not correct. Approved programmes do not have to be delivered or awarded by a university or college with degree-awarding powers.

Q: The HCPC Standards of Education and Training (SETs) require that key clinical training is done by existing registrants. So you must include existing HCPC registrants in this training?

A: The HCPC SETs state that key training functions would 'normally' be expected to be performed by existing dietitian registrants. However the HCPC has told BANT that in principle it would be possible for CNHC registrants to be involved in a programme leading to a registration as a dietitian, but the HCPC would need to scrutinise the programme carefully to ensure that all of its standards of education and training are met. Approval for suitably qualified and experienced CNHC registrants involved in teaching, supervision, assessment and programme management would need to be decided on a case by case basis by HCPC *in advance* as their current position is that it is difficult to envisage how a programme which provides eligibility for registration would normally be delivered without existing dietetic registrants.

Q: So the BANT Functional Dietetics Curriculum is for use by existing Nutritional Therapy (NT) training providers to get their courses approved by the HCPC?

A: BANT anticipates that both existing NT and current dietetic training providers will be interested in using this up-to-date curriculum framework.

Q: I am a student on a current NT course and my training provider is going to apply for HCPC approval so, if approved, will I be able to join the HCPC register as a dietitian?

A: No, for HCPC registration you must enrol on an approved course. What we would expect is that your training provider would facilitate your enrolment on the new approved course and you would receive APL credits as appropriate.

Q: I am a CNHC registrant. Will I be able to apply for HCPC registration if I can meet the SOP on understanding the legal and ethical issues surrounding withdrawal of feeding?

A: There is no provision for this under the existing legislation at this time. BANT will be looking at this issue once training providers are delivering approved courses in functional dietetics.

Q: HCPC approval is dependent on the British Dietetic Association (BDA) accrediting courses and existing Dietitians approving the course.

A: The HCPC process includes visits undertaken by a panel which will include two current dietitian registrants and a lay member. The HCPC process is independent from the BDA and members of the HCPC panel are simply tasked with their HCPC agenda.

Q: What if the BDA does not agree with the Curriculum Framework?

A: There is no requirement for the BDA to agree the Curriculum Framework. As far as we are aware this is the first time a dietetic curriculum has been the subject of a public consultation. Consultation is an important procedure in the regulation of health professions and BANT hopes that the process will indeed encourage constructive dialogue amongst the professional nutrition and dietetic community to ensure that the public receives the most up-to-date evidence-based care.