The Professional Regulatory Board of Nutrition and Dietetics (BoND) believes that it is in the best interest of the profession and the public it serves to have a Code of Ethics (Code) in place that shall set forth the moral and ethical principles to guide all Registered Nutritionist-Dietitians (RNDs) in their professional practice and conduct. This Code shall further serve as a reminder to all RNDs of their lifelong commitment and obligation to serve their clients, their professional colleagues, the profession and the public in general.

On April 07, 2017, the BoND presented the draft Code to the different nutrition organizations and agencies (Nutritionist-Dietitians Association of the Philippines, Philippine Society of Nutritionist-Dietitians, Inc., Philippine Association of Nutrition Inc, National Nutrition Council, Department of Health League of NDs, Nutrition Foundation of the Philippines Inc, Food and Nutrition Research Institute-Department of Science and Technology and Association of Corporate NDs). The aforementioned nutrition organization and agencies approved the draft and agreed to submit the same to the Professional Regulation Commission (Commission), through the BoND, for adoption and promulgation.

In view of the foregoing and in pursuance of Section 34 of Republic Act (RA) No. 10862, also known as the “Nutrition and Dietetics Law of 2016”, the BoND hereby issues and promulgates this CODE OF ETHICS FOR NUTRITIONISTS-DIETITIANS IN THE PHILIPPINES, hereinafter referred to as the Code, as part of the Rules and Regulations governing the practice of Nutrition and Dietetics.

ARTICLE I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The RND shall:

Section 1. Have for its primary objective the improvement of the nutritional status of the Filipino people.

Section 2. Maintain a high regard for the health and general well-being of the Filipino people, unquestionable sense of responsibility, integrity of character, sound judgment and adequate scientific and technical abilities to promote nutrition.

Section 3. Make available his/her expertise in the delivery of nutritional and dietetics services to the community and his/her clients.
Section 4. Protect the highest tenets and standards of the profession. The RND shall protect the profession, the public, clients, colleagues and other professionals by upholding the principles embodied in this Code and by reporting violations thereof to the Commission, through the BoND and/or its Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO).

Section 5. Cooperate with other professionals and co-workers in allied fields in efforts directed towards the improvement of human life.

ARTICLE II. RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PUBLIC

The RND shall:

Section 1. Protect the public against false, misleading and fraudulent information in relation to food product endorsement. The RND shall be responsible in providing accurate and truthful information to the public about the food product, and as such, may be liable for breach thereof under pertinent laws and regulations.

Section 2. Demonstrate healthy lifestyle habits.

Section 3. Educate the public on healthy lifestyle choices and measures in order to prevent or treat malnutrition and other related non-communicable diseases.

Section 4. Observe and practice environmental sustainability (e.g. water and energy conservation, greening the environment, etc) at all times.

Section 5. Initiate, support and deliver, in cooperation with other professionals and co-workers, nutritional services to meet the health and nutritional needs of the public as part of his/her civic social responsibility (CSR).

Section 6. Endeavor to participate in nutrition and dietetic activities (e.g. menu planning, nutrition counselling, community mobilization, etc.) during disaster or in any emergency situations where his/her expertise is crucially needed.

ARTICLE III. RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE CLIENT

The RND shall:

Section 1. Promote the nutritional welfare of the client, whether in a health care institution or in the community, at all times.

Section 2. Render professional judgment or advice only within the limits of his/her qualifications and competence. As such, the ND shall collaborate, seek counsel and in appropriate cases, make timely referrals of clients or patients undergoing nutritional care to other colleagues for further management.

Section 3. Build an environment that fosters respect for the values, culture, customs and spiritual beliefs of the client.
CODE OF ETHICS FOR NUTRITIONIST-DIETITIANS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Section 4. Provide sufficient information to enable clients and others to make their own informed decisions. Further, the RND shall respect the client’s right to make decisions regarding the recommended plan of care, including consent, modification, or refusal.

Section 5. Keep in confidentiality all information acquired from the clients in the discharge of professional duties unless otherwise ordered by the court or with the written permission of the client.

ARTICLE IV. RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PROFESSION

The RND shall:

Section 1. Promote and enrich his/her knowledge and skills necessary in the practice of the profession by keeping abreast with the advances in the field of Nutrition and Dietetics through Continuing Professional Development (CPD). The RND shall practice the profession based on evidence-based principles and current information.

Section 2. Actively involve/participate in the activities and programs of the AIPO that are geared towards enhancing the level or standard of his/her professional practice. The RND shall commit to a life-long responsibility and accountability for personal competence in the practice, consistent with the accepted professional standards.

Section 3. Allow the use of his/her license only by the institution where he/she is actually employed or is connected professionally and/or where he/she has provided or supervised directly the provision of such services.

Section 4. Make full disclosure of any potential conflict of interest. The RND shall, in all cases and circumstances, act in good faith in his/her professional dealings.

ARTICLE V. RESPONSIBILITIES TO COLLEAGUES AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS

The RND shall:

Section 1. Respect the values, culture, rights, knowledge, and skills of colleagues and other professionals.

Section 2. Make all reasonable efforts to avoid bias in the evaluation of the performance of colleagues, coworkers, students and other individuals in relation to employment, promotion, grant of grades, awards or scholarships, etc.

ARTICLE VI. PENAL PROVISIONS

Violation of any provision of this Code of Ethics shall constitute unethical and unprofessional conduct and is a sufficient ground for the reprimand, suspension or revocation of the Certificate of Registration of the offending RND in accordance with the provisions of RA No. 10862.
ARTICLE VII. EFFECTIVITY

This Code of Ethics shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or any newspaper of national circulation.

Let copies hereof be furnished the UP Law Center and the AIPO for the Nutrition and Dietetics profession.

Done in the City of Manila, this 8th day of September 2017.

VIRGITH B. BUENA
Chairperson

IMELDA ANGELES-AGDEPPA
Member

RHODA JOY RAMOS-BUENVIAJE
Member

ATTESTED:

LOVELIKA T. BAUTISTA
OIC, Office of the Secretary to the Professional Regulatory Boards

APPROVED:

TEOFILO S. PILANDO, JR.
Chairman

ANGELINE T. CHUA CHIACO
Commissioner

YOLANDA D. REYES
Commissioner

DATE OF EFFECTIVITY: 2017-09-08

OFFICIAL GAZETTE: 2017-09-08