When to use the Decision Tree: Use this tool when trying to determine whether a specific activity or service (such as assuming responsibility for instructing patients with diabetes on insulin pump usage or ordering nutrition related labs) falls within your individual scope of practice.

Instructions for Use:
Start on the left side of the diagram and match numbered boxes with each “Question to Ask Yourself” on the right of the diagram. Fully consider all decision points.

Questions to Ask Yourself

1. Does the license or credential I hold permit me to perform this activity or service?

2. Is the activity or service consistent with the following?
   - Entry level dietetics education and credentialing (CADE and CDR)
   - ADA Standards of Practice, Standards of Professional Performance, Code of Ethics
   - ADA position statements or practice papers; dietetics literature/research
   - Nutrition practice guidelines or protocols
   - National organization standards of practice
   - Institution job description or privileges
   - Accrediting Organization Standards
   - Federal Statutes and Regulations

3. Would the activity or service be within the accepted “standard of practice” that would be provided in similar circumstances by reasonable and prudent dietetics practitioners who have similar training, education, skill, competence, and experience?

4. Have I acquired the depth and breadth of knowledge needed to safely and effectively perform this activity or service through training, such as a pre-professional program, a continuing education program, or self-study?

5. Have I personally demonstrated current knowledge, skills, and competence to safely perform this activity or service?

6. Am I personally prepared to accept the consequences of my actions?

IF YOU HAVE ANSWERED YES TO EACH OF THESE QUESTIONS, perform the activity or service with valid order, when necessary, and in accordance with organizational policies and procedures.

Figure 6. American Dietetic Association Scope of Dietetics Practice Framework Decision Tree.