

# Allied Health Professionals in Primary Care – Moving with the Times

## Unique Challenges and Key Thrusts Ahead *Dietetics*

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SINGAPORE NUTRITION AND  
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Tan Tock Seng  
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# DIETITIANS in Singapore Healthcare

- **Historically:**

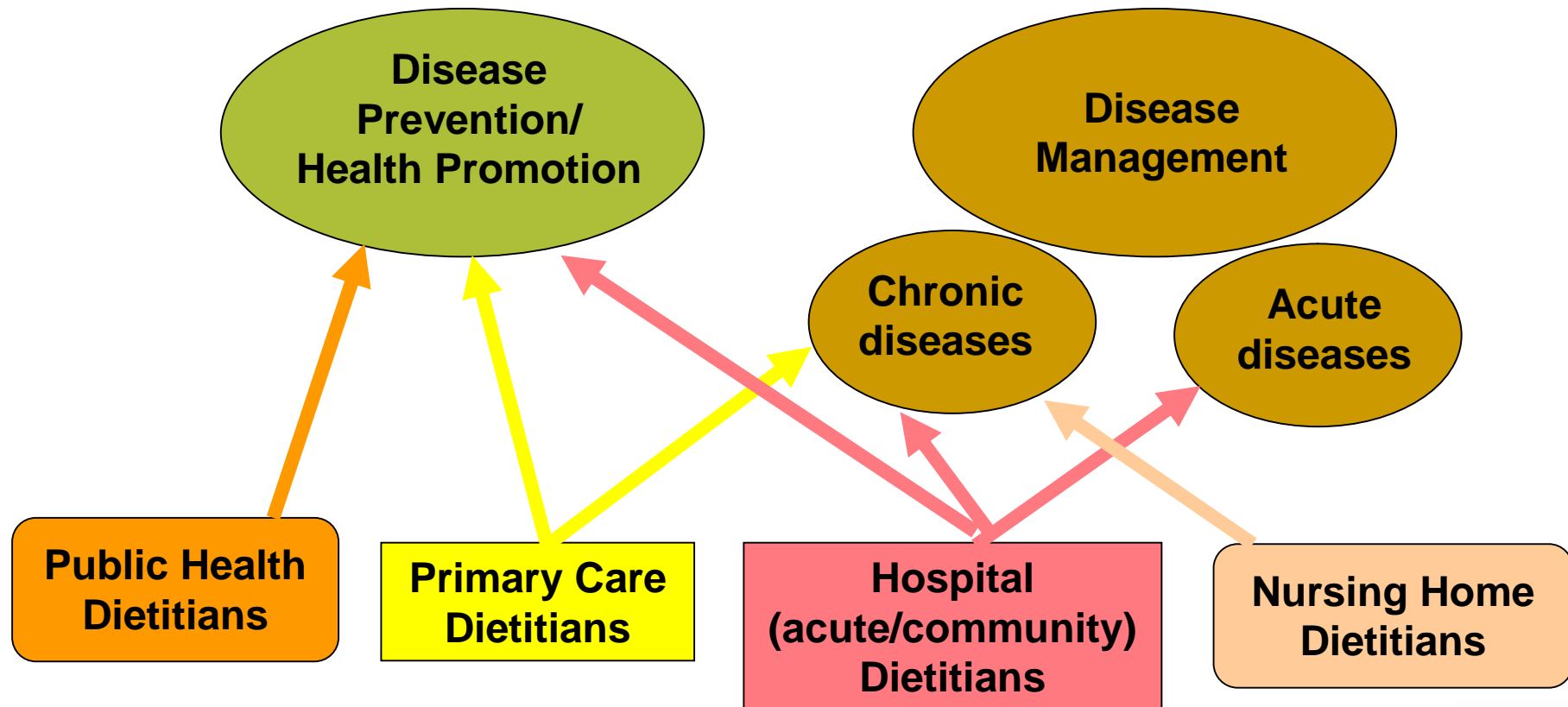
- ❑ Key role was in hospital food service management
- ❑ Limited role in patient care and education

- **In the recent decade:**

- ❑ ↑ direct patient care for disease management
- ❑ ↑ recognition in clinical dietetics
- ❑ Heightened awareness and emphasis in nutrition with JCI accreditation
- ❑ ↑ role in disease prevention



# Current Dietetics Service Framework in Singapore Healthcare



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# DIETITIANS in Singapore Healthcare

## Hospital Dietitians

- Disease management
  - Multidisciplinary teams, clinical pathways
- Disease prevention
- Nutrition policies
- Clinical research
  - contribute to EBP and translate research evidence to practice
- Educator



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# Challenges and Key Thrusts Ahead

## Disease Prevention in Primary Care

- Nutrition is one of the key focus in disease prevention
  - currently suboptimal involvement at primary care
- Inadequate collaboration with public health dietitians
- Role for nutrition screening
- Allocation of resources for more dietitians



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# Challenges and Key Thrusts Ahead

## Disease Management

### ■ Nutrition Education and Counselling

- ❑ Any healthcare professionals can provide nutrition information and education
- ❑ Accuracy and consistency of information communicated to patients across care continuum
- ❑ Training to other healthcare professionals
- ❑ **Knowledge acquisition** vs patient-focused behaviour change



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# Challenges and Key Thrusts Ahead

## Disease Management

### ■ ***Continuity of Care***

- ❑ Effective nutrition therapy can be limited in hospital with short LOS
- ❑ Require more follow-up and monitoring in outpatient/community
- ❑ Improve continuity of dietetics care between hospital and primary care/community dietitians
- ❑ Align to overall patient care framework



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# Challenges and Key Thrusts Ahead

## Disease Management in Primary Care

- **Multidisciplinary team**
  - important to define roles, identify patients for dietetic services
- Policies, protocols, new programs and initiatives
- Cost-effectiveness
- Research
- Training



# New service framework?

