

Standard of Practice: Emergency Readiness

Standard of Practice

Naturopathic doctors must be prepared for and competent in managing emergency situations that may occur in clinical practice.

Introduction

Emergency situations can occur anywhere and at any time. Naturopathic doctors must be cognizant of these situations and have a plan and the means to respond accordingly. Appendix I is provided as a resource and outlines a list of supplies and equipment that may be required depending on the level of risk associated with the naturopathic doctor's practice.

Definitions

Clinical setting: where a naturopathic doctor performs patient care.

Competence: the combined knowledge, skills, attitudes and judgement required to provide professional services, defined in the *Health Professions Act*.

Emergency situation: a situation that poses immediate risk to the health or life of a person in the clinical setting.

Standard: an authoritative statement that describes a required behaviour of every naturopathic doctor and is used to evaluate individual conduct.

Restricted activities: the indicated activities performed as part of providing a health service that require specific competencies and skills to be carried out safely, as defined in the *Health Professions Restricted Activity Regulation* and the *Health Professions Act*.

Naturopathic doctors demonstrate this standard by:

1. assessing their practices and maintaining competence in emergency procedures appropriate for risk of emergency situations based on, at a minimum, the following:
 - a) volume of patients,
 - b) volume of high-risk procedures,
 - c) proximity to a hospital,
 - d) proximity to an emergency/urgent care,
 - e) acuity of illness of patients,
 - f) breadth of practice (including restricted activities),
 - g) ease of access to emergency supplies and equipment, including, but not limited to:
 - i. within the clinical setting;
 - ii. proximity to where patient care is provided; and,
 - iii. individual vs. shared supplies and equipment; and,
- (a) access to emergency medical services;
2. maintaining competence in emergency procedures in accordance with the **CNDA Continuing Competence Program Rules;**
3. ensuring emergency plan procedures are in place to manage any critical or unexpected events including adverse events associated with performing diagnostic or therapeutic procedures;

4. ensuring emergency plan procedures include when to call emergency services (i.e. 911);
5. ensuring emergency plan procedures are compliant with **CNDA Standard of Practice: Infectious Disease Prevention and Control**;
6. maintaining written emergency plan procedures for the clinic setting that are readily accessible;
7. ensuring access to emergency supplies and equipment, in accordance with **Appendix I** and Section 1 of this standard;
8. ensuring WHMIS information is available for required substances in clinic;
9. ensuring all staff members are aware of and trained in emergency procedures that might be required in the course of performing their roles; and
10. ensuring emergency supplies and equipment, as outlined in **Appendix I**, are readily accessible, stored appropriately, in good working order and not expired.

Expected Outcomes

Patients are satisfied that:

- naturopathic doctors have clear and reasonable plans in place to handle emergency situations; and
- naturopathic doctors are able to execute these emergency plans when required.

Related Documents

Health Professions Act

Health Professions Restricted Activity Regulation

Naturopaths Profession Regulation

CNDA Code of Ethics

CNDA Continuing Competence Program Rules

CNDA Standard of Practice: Infectious Disease Prevention and Control



Appendix I

The following list comprises those supplies and equipment that are required and that may be required based on the assessment from Section 1 of this standard. The type of emergency equipment in the naturopathic doctor's clinical setting must correspond with the level of risk associated with their practice. This list is not exhaustive.



Supplies and Equipment	Required for all members	May be required based on assessed risk (refer back to Section 1 of this standard)	Required if performing: - acupuncture, - colon hydrotherapy, - hyperbaric oxygen therapy - manipulation	Required if performing: - naturopathic injection therapies - prolotherapy	Required if performing: - intravenous chelation therapy - intravenous therapy - minor surgery - ozone therapy.
pocket mask for cardiopulmonary resuscitation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
basic dressing supplies	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
syringes		✓		✓	✓
needles		✓		✓	✓
isopropyl alcohol	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
gauze, bandages, micropore tape, cotton balls, scissors	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
single-use, disposable non latex gloves	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
smelling salt (amyl nitrate) or essential oil (peppermint)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
epi-pen or ampoules of epinephrine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
oxygen tank with regulator 0-10L/min with mask or nasal cannula		✓	✓	✓	✓
resuscitation bag with O2 attachment		✓	✓	✓	✓
charged automated external defibrillator		✓	✓	✓	✓
glucometer		✓	✓	✓	✓
Pulse-oximeter		✓	✓	✓	✓
armboard					✓
normal saline bags;					✓
dextrose 5% (D5W) bags;					✓
lactated Ringer's bags;					✓
calcium gluconate 10% or calcium chloride (100mg/ml);					✓

Supplies and Equipment	Required for all members	May be required based on assessed risk (refer back to Section 1 of this standard)	Required if performing: - acupuncture, - colon hydrotherapy, - hyperbaric oxygen therapy - manipulation	Required if performing: - naturopathic injection therapies - prolotherapy	Required if performing: - intravenous chelation therapy - intravenous therapy - minor surgery - ozone therapy.
magnesium chloride 20% or magnesium sulfate 50%;					✓
applicable antidotes for all IV drugs being administered;					✓
Heparin (1000 IU/ml)					✓
diphenhydramine (Benadryl) for oral administration;		✓		✓	✓
fast-acting glucose (i.e. tablets, juice)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
non latex tourniquets; and		✓			✓
IV tubing, administration sets, and angiocatheters and/or infusion needles.					✓

