

Standard of Practice: Infectious Disease Prevention and Control

Standard of Practice

Naturopathic doctors understand and apply evidence-based measures to prevent and control transmission of infection.

Introduction

In delivering safe and competent naturopathic medical care, naturopathic doctors shall work to prevent and control infectious diseases. This standard outlines how naturopathic doctors are to incorporate infection prevention and control into their practice.

Definitions

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

Needle: a sharp instrument used for suturing, for puncturing, or for the guiding of ligatures.

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*.

Standard of Practice: an authoritative statement that describes a minimum required behaviour of every naturopathic doctor and is used to evaluate individual conduct. Naturopathic doctors should always strive to practice above the minimum standards. Performance below the minimum standard may result in disciplinary action.

Sterile technique: the use of practices that restrict microorganisms in the environment and prevent contamination.

Naturopathic doctors demonstrate this standard of practice by:

1. maintaining current knowledge of infection prevention and control (IPC) protocols, including:
Alberta Health's Reusable & single-use medical devices standards : standards for the reprocessing of reusable medical devices and for the use of single-use medical devices in all health care facilities and settings, Alberta Health's Standards for Single-Use Medical Devices: As Applied to Critical and Semi-Critical Medical Devices 2011, and Infection Prevention and Control Canada: Hand Hygiene Practices in Healthcare Settings;
2. adopting and implementing IPC protocols that include, as a minimum:
 - a) hand hygiene with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub prior to and after patient contact;
 - b) proper and adequate cleaning of equipment and clinic environment,
 - c) proper and adequate environmental controls (e.g. well-maintained ventilation, non-porous flooring and surfaces),

- d) point of care sharps containers, hand hygiene product dispensers and adequate hand wash sinks,
 - e) risk assessment of the patient, and of the naturopathic doctor's interaction with the patient,
 - f) taking the measures necessary to prevent the transmission of infection from the naturopathic doctor to the patient or other health care providers and staff, and
 - g) practising in accordance with the **CNDA Standard of Practice: Clean Needle Technique**;
3. collecting, storing and disposing of biomedical waste appropriately;
 4. ensuring administrative controls are in place including:
 - a) clinical policies and procedures;
 - b) staff education; and
 - c) monitoring of compliance;
 5. documenting accurately and clearly any incident involving exposure to biomedical material posing a risk of transmission (e.g., needle-stick injury, blood or body fluid ingestion, contact with mucous membrane or broken skin). The incident report must include:
 - a) date
 - b) name of individuals involved;
 - c) the nature of the incident;
 - d) how the incident occurred;
 - e) results of all medical tests administered;
 - f) any treatment administered; and
 - g) any other information relevant to the incident.
 6. A copy of the report must be kept for at least ten years in a master incident report file.

Expected Outcomes

Patients are satisfied that:

- their naturopathic doctor implements protocols to prevent and control infection in their practice.

Related Documents

CNDA Code of Ethics
CNDA Standard of Practice: General
CNDA Standard of Practice: Clean Needle Technique

Resources

Routine Practices and Additional Precautions for Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Healthcare Settings, Public Health Agency of Canada (2013)
Alberta Health's Standards for Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization of Reusable Medical Devices for Healthcare Facilities and Settings 2012,
Alberta Health's Standards for Single-Use Medical Devices: As Applied to Critical and Semi-Critical Medical Devices 2011, Infection Prevention and Control Canada: Hand Hygiene Practices in Healthcare Settings
Infection Prevention and Control Canada (www.ipac-canada.org)
Alberta Health Services Infection Prevention Control
(<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page6410.aspx>)
General Infection Prevention and Control Standards Assessment (CPSA)

