

## Standard of Practice: Naturopathic Injection Therapies

### Standard of Practice

When performing naturopathic injection therapies, naturopathic doctors must do so in a safe, competent and ethical manner.

### Introduction

A complete list of restricted activities is found in the *Health Professions Act* section 1.3(1). Restricted activities authorized for naturopathic doctors are listed in the *Health Professions Restricted Activity Regulation* section 37. Naturopathic doctors are granted the restricted activity of administering a needle below the dermis for the purpose of providing naturopathic injection therapies.

There are three types of naturopathic injection therapies that this standard provides for: intramuscular injections, intradermal injections, and subcutaneous injections. This standard is intended to outline how naturopathic doctors can provide safe, competent and ethical care, when performing naturopathic injection therapies for a patient.

### Definitions

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

**Intradermal injection:** administering a substance via a needle into the corium of the skin.

**Intramuscular injection:** administering a substance via a needle into muscle tissue.

**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.

**Student:** a student who is enrolled in a 4-year program of studies in naturopathic medicine approved by the Council, and for the purpose of performing restricted activities under the supervision of a regulated member is also taking a specific course of studies within that program to perform restricted activities as outlined in section 37(2) of the *Health Professions Restricted Activity Regulation*.

**Subcutaneous injection:** administering a substance via a needle into subcutaneous tissue.

### Naturopathic doctors demonstrate this standard of practice by:

1. only performing naturopathic injection therapies with authorization by the Registrar and in accordance with any restrictions or provisions required by the Registrar;
2. having authorization by the Registrar to perform the restricted activity of administering ozone therapy and acting in accordance with any restrictions or provisions required by the Registrar when using ozone as an injected substance;

3. ensuring that all required qualifications to perform naturopathic injection therapies are current, in accordance with the **CNDA Continuing Competence Program Rules**;
4. having skills and knowledge of:
  - a) theory and principles of naturopathic injection therapies,
  - b) assessment and diagnosis,
  - c) how to prepare solutions for injections safely and competently,
  - d) treatment techniques, and
  - e) indications and contraindications;
5. ensuring proper documentation of naturopathic injection therapies in the patient medical record in accordance with the **CNDA Standard of Practice: Records Keeping** and must include:
  - a) formula and concentration of solution for injection,
  - b) injection administration site(s),
  - c) size and gauge of needle(s) used,
  - d) volume of solution administered,
  - e) state of needle(s) when removed, and
  - f) state of patient upon conclusion of treatment;
6. ensuring proper preparation of solutions to be administered, including:
  - a) preparing solutions as close as possible to administration;
  - b) keeping solutions labelled until administration; and,
  - c) ensuring the same person who prepares the solution administers it;
7. ensuring written protocols are in place and followed when collaborating with another regulated health care professional within a clinic/health care setting as per the **CNDA Standard of Practice: Collaboration in Patient Care** and **CNDA Standard of Practice: General**
8. having knowledge of and performing naturopathic injection therapies in accordance with the following CNDA standards:
  - a) **CNDA Standard of Practice: General**,
  - b) **CNDA Standard of Practice: Consent**,
  - c) **CNDA Standard of Practice: Collaboration in Patient Care**,
  - d) **CNDA Standard of Practice: Duty to Report**,
  - e) **CNDA Standard of Practice: Clean Needle Technique**,
  - f) **CNDA Standard of Practice: Emergency Readiness**,
  - g) **CNDA Standard of Practice: Infectious Disease Prevention and Control**, and
  - h) **CNDA Standard of Practice: Ozone Therapy**;
9. having knowledge of and applying the principles of the **CNDA Guideline: Collaboration in Patient Care**; and,
10. ensuring that when consenting to supervise a student or regulated member they must:
  - a) be on site with the student or regulated member and available to assist while the student or regulated member is performing the restricted activity,
  - b) be authorized to perform the restricted activity being performed by the student or regulated member,
  - c) have a minimum of one year's experience in performing the restricted activity, and
  - d) be in accordance with the **CNDA Administrative Policy: Supervision**.

## Expected Outcomes

Patients are satisfied that:

- naturopathic doctors perform naturopathic injection therapies safely, competently and ethically.

## Related Documents

*Health Professions Act*

*Health Professions Restricted Activity Regulation*

*Naturopaths Profession Regulation*

CNDA Code of Ethics

CNDA Standard of Practice: General

CNDA Standard of Practice: Consent

CNDA Standard of Practice: Collaboration in Patient Care

CNDA Standard of Practice: Duty to Report

CNDA Standard of Practice: Clean Needle Technique

CNDA Standard of Practice: Emergency Readiness

CNDA Standard of Practice: Infectious Disease Prevention and Control

CNDA Guideline: Collaboration in Patient Care in a Shared Health Care Setting

CNDA Administrative Policy: Supervision

