

Standard of Practice: Intravenous Therapy

Standard of Practice

When performing intravenous therapy, 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 or cannula below the dermis for the purpose of providing intravenous therapy.

This standard is intended to outline how naturopathic doctors can provide safe, competent and ethical care, when performing intravenous therapy for a patient.

Definitions

Central venous access device: a device that is inserted into the body through a vein to enable the administration of fluids and other therapies to the bloodstream that can be inserted into the subclavian or jugular vein (e.g. implanted ports, tunneled catheters), or into one of the peripheral veins of the upper extremities, called peripherally inserted central catheters (PICCs)

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

Intravenous therapy: initiating, administering and terminating the application of substances for therapeutic benefit through intravenous infusion.

Parenteral nutrition: Parenteral nutrition, a restricted activity, is intravenous administration of nutrition to sustain life for patients who cannot eat or absorb enough food through tube feeding formula or by mouth to sustain life.

Patient medical record: an account or evidence of documented patient findings, assessments, diagnoses and treatments.

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*.

Naturopathic doctors demonstrate this standard of practice by:

1. only performing intravenous therapy with authorization by the Registrar and in accordance with any restrictions or provisions required by the Registrar;
2. ensuring that all required qualifications to perform intravenous therapy are current, in accordance with the **CNDA Continuing Competence Program Rules**;
3. having skills and knowledge of:
 - a) theory and principles of intravenous therapy,
 - b) assessment and diagnosis,
 - c) how to prepare intravenous solutions with acceptable osmolarity,
 - d) calculations of appropriate rates of infusion,
 - e) treatment techniques, and
 - f) indications and contraindications;
4. ensuring proper documentation of intravenous therapy treatments in the patient medical record in accordance with the **CNDA Standard of Practice: Records Keeping** and must include:
 - a) vital signs,
 - b) intravenous solution concentration and osmolarity,
 - c) infusion rate,
 - d) intravenous administration site, including central venous access devices if applicable,
 - e) size and type of needle or cannula used,
 - f) state of needle or cannula when removed, and
 - g) state of patient upon conclusion of treatment;
5. ensuring proper labelling of the IV bag to include:
 - a. concentration and volume of each substance added to the bag;
 - b. date and time the bag was drawn up;
 - c. name of person who drew up the bag;
 - d. patient's name;
 - e. carrier solution;
6. ensuring written protocols are in place and followed when collaborating with another regulated health professional within a clinic/health care setting as per the **CNDA Standard of Practice: Collaboration in Patient Care** and **CNDA Standard of Practice: General**;
7. having knowledge of and performing intravenous therapy 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**; and,
 - g) **CNDA Standard of Practice: Infectious Disease Prevention and Control**;
8. complying with **CNDA Standard of Practice: Intravenous Chelation Therapy** when administering intravenous chelation therapy;
9. complying with **CNDA Standard of Practice: Ozone Therapy** when administering intravenous ozone;

10. having knowledge of and applying the principles of the **CNDA Guideline: Collaboration in Patient Care**;
11. ensuring that, when administering IV therapy, it is not for the purposes of parenteral nutrition; and,
12. 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 intravenous therapy safely, competently and ethically.

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: Records Keeping

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 Standard of Practice: Intravenous Chelation Therapy

CNDA Standard of Practice: Ozone Therapy

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

CNDA Administrative Policy: Supervision

