
 The College of Naturopaths of Ontario	Policy Type <b>EXAMINATIONS</b>	<b>PROGRAM POLICIES</b>
	Title  Prescribing and Therapeutics Program & Examination Policy	Policy No.  <b>EX04.04</b>
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Intent/Purpose	To establish a policy governing the prescribing and therapeutics program and examination for the College of Naturopaths of Ontario (the College).	
Definitions	Act	Means the <i>Naturopathy Act, 2007</i> , as amended from time to time.
	Candidate	Means any person who has submitted an examination application or is engaged in any examination or appeal, which leads to the recording and/or issue of a mark, grade or statement of result or performance by the College.
	Certificate of Registration	Means a document issued by the College, in either the General Class or Inactive Class, which demonstrates to the public that the holder is a Registrant of the College, registered in the class set out on the Certificate and identifies whether there are any terms, conditions, or limitations (TCLs) placed on the certificate.
	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Means the individual appointed by the Council of the College pursuant to section 9(2) of the Code which is Schedule II of the <i>RHPA</i> and who performs the duties assigned to the position of Registrar under the <i>RHPA</i> , the Code, the Act and the regulations made thereunder.
	Code	Means the Health Professions Procedural Code, which is schedule 2 to the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991..
	CNME	Means the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education. The North American accrediting agency for naturopathic educational programs that is recognized by the College.
	College	Means the College of Naturopaths of Ontario as established under the <i>Naturopathy Act, 2007</i> and governed by the <i>Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991</i> .
	Council	Means the Council of the College as established pursuant to section 6 of the Act.
	Deferral	Means a granted postponement of a candidate's attempt at one or more examinations.
	Drug	Means that as defined in the <i>Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act</i> .
	Examinations Accommodation	Means an adjustment to testing conditions, examination requirements or examination scheduling to address a candidate's current needs arising from a disability, physical limitation, or religious requirement.
	Examination Violation	Means a contravention of the College's Examination Policy or Examination Rules of Conduct.


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General Class	Means a Registrant authorized to practise in Ontario, who has met the registration requirements, as set out in section 5 of the Registration Regulation.
Good Standing	Means the status assigned to a Registrant when they are current on dues and payments and are current with the filing of reports as required based on their Certificate of Registration.
Inactive Class	Means a Registrant not authorized to practise in Ontario as set out in section 8 of the Registration Regulation.
Prescribing and Therapeutics Examination	Means a two-part examination approved by Council that includes both written and oral components which tests a Registrant's competency to compound, dispense, sell, administer by injection or inhalation those drugs tabled in the General Regulation and engage in therapeutic prescribing.
Registrant	Means an individual, as defined in section 1(1) of the Code.
Registration Committee	Means the statutory committee of the College responsible for all registration matters referred to it by the CEO. Panels of this statutory committee are responsible for all registration matters as set out in the Code.
Registration Regulation	Means Ontario Regulation 84/14 as amended from time to time.
RHPA	Means the <i>Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991</i> , as amended from time to time.
Standard of Practice for Prescribing	Means the education and examination requirements necessary to demonstrate competency in the practise of prescribing as defined in section 9(5) of the General Regulation.

General	Regulation	<p>Determinations of whether a Registrant has met the Standard of Practice for Prescribing, or whether a therapeutic prescribing course is approved, will be made in accordance with the General Regulation and this policy.</p> <p>Registration staff and Registrants of the College will act in accordance with this policy, the Examinations Policy and Examination Rules of Conduct, and any applicable procedural manuals.</p>
	Eligibility Requirements for the Practise of Therapeutic Prescribing	<p>Any Registrant who wishes to perform the controlled acts of prescribing, compounding, selling, or dispensing a drug, or administering a drug by injection or inhalation must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold a General Class Certificate of Registration without any Terms, Conditions or Limitations (TCL)'s which restrict the Registrant from engaging in direct patient care.</li> </ul>

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- Be in Good Standing with the College. Have successfully completed a training course in therapeutic prescribing, approved by Council, that covers the core competencies for the practise of prescribing, and an examination in therapeutic prescribing administered or approved by Council.
- Meet the requirements as set out in the Quality Assurance Program for Continuing Education related to prescribing.

#### Skills Atrophied

Registrants holding an Inactive class Certificate of Registration or a General class Certificate of Registration with a non-clinical TCL with the College for more than two years are deemed to have atrophied in skill and no longer meet the Standard of Practice, and as such must complete the eligibility requirements as set out above, prior to being eligible to practise the controlled act of prescribing a drug.

#### Core Competencies for the Practise of Therapeutic Prescribing

Registrants performing the controlled act of prescribing a drug possess the knowledge, skill, and judgment in the following core competencies to ensure safe and effective practise:


- Clinical rationale, including knowledge of indications and contraindications related to prescription and non-prescription drugs and substances, knowledge of appropriate starting dosages and titration schedules, and the ability to assess when a prescription is not an appropriate treatment option.
- Therapeutic treatment plans, including medical history taking, medications and allergies, physical examination and informed consent requirements, appropriate tests and labs for monitoring, referral indicators, and the ability to interpret results, evaluate patient outcomes and assess patient response to treatment.
- Record keeping, including knowledge of documentation, charting, prescription writing and prescription labeling requirements.
- Ontario approved drugs and substances as tabled in the General Regulation, limitations, and related standards of practice around the controlled acts of prescribing, dispensing, compounding, or selling a drug or administering a substance by inhalation or injection.
- Adverse reactions and emergency situations, including knowledge of how to assess and respond to an adverse drug reaction, how to administer emergency substances, dosages, and route of administration for emergency substances, reporting an adverse drug reaction in conjunction with Health Canada reporting requirements and knowledge of emergency referral indicators and procedures.

Therapeutic  
Prescribing  
Training  
Courses

Approval

In order for the Council to approve a course, and for that course to be recognized by the College for training in therapeutic prescribing, and qualification of candidates for the Prescribing and Therapeutics examination, all course materials, including a detailed course outline, course references, and any documents or hand-outs that

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would be provided to the course participants must be submitted along with an application to the Registration Committee for review and recommendation to the Council.

In reviewing an application for approval, the Registration Committee will base their decision on the following criteria:

1. Course material must be fully referenced.
2. Course is a minimum of 32 hours of structured learning and covers all core competencies necessary for the practise of therapeutic prescribing.
3. Course material must adhere to Ontario legislation and regulation, College policy, standards, and regulation, and must align with other regulated health profession industry standards for therapeutic prescribing.
4. All participants who successfully complete the course must be provided with a certificate of completion signed and dated by the course instructor.
5. The course must contain content which addresses the following:
  - Evidence based prescribing, principles and practice including informed decision making related to prescription and non-prescription medications for the treatment of cardiovascular disorders, psychological issues, pain management, respiratory disorders, endocrine disorders, reproductive issues, dermatological issues, nutritional deficiencies, and addiction issues.
  - How to create therapeutic plans and monitor therapy to ensure safe and effective treatment for specific conditions.
  - Medical history taking with respect to prescription medications, selecting appropriate starting doses and titration schedules when initiating select prescription medications, and strategies for determining when a prescription may not be needed or may be harmful.
  - How to recognize and report situations where an adverse drug reaction may have occurred.
  - Writing prescriptions using patient case scenarios, defining risks, benefits, and monitoring parameters.
  - Ontario regulation, related standards, and requirements with respect to the controlled acts of prescribing, dispensing, compounding, or selling a drug or administering a drug by injection or inhalation, and the drugs tabled in the General Regulation.
  - The College must be able to verify the course enrollment date for any candidate of the

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Prescribing and Therapeutics exam, with the course provider.

- Participants who successfully complete an in-person offering of the course must be provided with a certificate of completion signed and dated by the course instructor.

**Course Audits**      The Registration Committee reserves the right to audit the course and all related content and references at its discretion, and at the cost of the course instructor(s).


**Course Updates**      Course material must be updated on an on-going basis to reflect applicable changes to College regulations, policies and standards, Ontario legislation and regulations, and other regulated health profession industry standards concerning the controlled act of prescribing, and such changes are subject to a review and approval by the Registration Committee.

Any updates must be submitted to the Registration Committee prior to implementation.

**Course Changes**      Changes to course material and/or references must be reviewed and approved by the Registration Committee.

Any changes must be submitted to the Registration Committee prior to implementation.

Prescribing and Therapeutics Examination	General	<p>To be deemed to have met the Standard of Practice for Prescribing, a candidate must successfully complete an examination administered or approved by Council, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hold a General Class Certificate of registration with the College, without any TCL's which restrict the Registrant from engaging in direct patient care; or</li> <li>• hold a General Class Certificate of registration with the College, without any TCL's which restrict the Registrant from engaging in direct patient care within two years of successfully completing the examination; and</li> <li>• be in good standing with the College.</li> </ul>
	Exam Eligibility	<p>A candidate is eligible to sit the Prescribing and Therapeutics examination provided they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a Registrant of the College, in Good Standing, at the time of application for the examination; or</li> <li>• a registered ND in a regulated Canadian jurisdiction; or</li> <li>• enrolled in a CNME-accredited program in Canada, and within 12 months of graduation from said program; or</li> <li>• a CNME-accredited program graduate, who is actively engaged in completing their requirements for registration with the College.</li> </ul>
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And have completed a Council approved training course on therapeutic prescribing no more than two years prior to the date of the exam.

**Passing Requirements**

To pass the Prescribing and Therapeutics examination, a candidate must score 60% on each component of the examination.

**Examination Attempts & Retakes**

Candidates are provided three attempts to successfully complete the Prescribing and Therapeutics examination and must do so within two years of the date of their completion of the therapeutic prescribing training course.

A candidate who has failed the Prescribing and Therapeutics examination for a second time, will be required to complete additional education or training, if any, as determined by a panel of the Registration Committee, in order to qualify to attempt the examination for a third and final time.

A candidate who has exceeded the two-year window from their date of successfully completing a Council approved therapeutic prescribing training course will be required to re-take an approved training course prior to being eligible to re-attempt the Prescribing and Therapeutics examination.

**Retakes**

Candidates who have failed any one component of the Prescribing and Therapeutics examination may elect to retake only the component of the examination for which they were unsuccessful, provided the retake component is completed within three attempts and two years of their completion of the course.

**Accommodations**

To ensure candidates are provided a fair opportunity to sit a Council approved examination, the College will consider all accommodation requests received from any candidate. Requests for accommodation will be managed in accordance with the College's Examinations Policy and Examination Rules of Conduct.

**Deferrals**

Any candidate who is registered for an examination may seek a deferral. Requests for deferral will be managed in accordance with the College's Examinations Policy.

**Examination Violations**

All candidates are required to comply with the Examination Rules of Conduct as established by the CEO. Any allegation of an examination violation will be handled in accordance with the College's Examinations Policy.

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