



The College of Naturopaths of Ontario



Standard of Practice:

Performing Authorized Acts

Introduction

The intent of this standard is to advise Members of the statutory requirements to perform the following authorized acts safely, ethically and competently.

- Putting an instrument, hand or finger beyond the labia majora but not beyond the cervix.
- Putting an instrument, hand or finger beyond the anal verge but not beyond the rectal-sigmoidal junction.
- Administering, by injection or inhalation, a prescribed substance.
- Performing prescribed procedures involving moving the joints of the spine beyond the individual's usual physiological range of motion using a fast, low amplitude thrust.
- Taking blood samples from veins or by skin pricking for the purpose of prescribed naturopathic examinations on the samples.

This Standard does not apply to the authorized acts listed below. Please refer to the specific Standards of Practice for more information on the following authorized acts:

- Communicating a naturopathic diagnosis identifying, as the cause of an individual's symptoms, a disease, disorder or dysfunction that may be identified through an assessment that uses naturopathic techniques.
- Prescribing, dispensing, compounding or selling a drug designated in the regulations

This Standard does not apply to Acupuncture, which is an exempted act.

Definitions

Authorized Act: means a whole or part of a controlled act set out in subsection 27(2) of the Regulated Health Professions Act that is authorized to the profession in subsection 4(1) of the Naturopathy Act.

Exempted Act: means a whole or part of a controlled act that is not authorized to the profession but may be performed by Naturopathic Doctors via an exemption in the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991.

1. Competency

The Member has the knowledge, skill and judgment necessary to perform the authorized act safely, ethically and competently, and to determine whether the patient's condition warrants the performance of the authorized act.

Performance Indicators

Prior to performing an authorized act, the Member will:

- achieve and maintain all prerequisites required for performing the procedure;
- fulfill all requirements for maintenance of competence for performing the procedure (e.g., continuing education, College of Naturopath's Quality Assurance Program).

2. Assessment and Treatment

Before performing an authorized act, the Member determines whether or not the patient's condition warrants the performance of the authorized act.

The Member performs an authorized act in accordance with all of the standards of practice of the profession.

Performance Indicators

The Member performs an authorized act within the context of the Naturopathic Doctor-patient relationship;

Before performing an authorized act, the Member:

- records the patient's health history;
- informs the patient about:
 - the purpose of the authorized act;
 - the risks inherent in performing it;
 - alternative treatments that the Member knows or ought to know are available within the practice of the profession;
 - treatments that the member knows or ought to know are available to the patient if he or she were to be treated by a member of another College under the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991.
- receives an informed consent.

Before performing an authorized act, the Member determines whether or not the patient's condition warrants the performance of the procedure, having considered:

- the known risks and benefits to the patient of performing the authorized act;
- the predictability of the outcome;
- the safeguards and resources available in the circumstances to safely manage the outcome of performing the authorized act; and
- other relevant circumstances specific to the patient.

The Member ensures appropriate infection control procedures are in place at all times and that the authorized act is performed in an environment that is clean, safe, private and comfortable for the patient.

Related Standards

Acupuncture
Collecting Clinical Samples
Communicating a Diagnosis
Compounding
Consent
Delegation
Dispensing
Infection Control
Inhalation
Injection
Internal Examinations
IV Infusion Therapy
Manipulation
Point of Care Testing
Prescribing
Record Keeping
Selling

Therapeutic Relationships and Professional Boundaries

Legislative Framework

[Naturopathy Act, 2007](#)

[General Regulation](#)

[Professional Misconduct Regulation](#)

[Quality Assurance Regulation](#)

[Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991](#)

Disclaimer

In the event of any inconsistency between this standard and any legislation that governs the practice of Naturopathic Doctors, the legislation shall govern.