



The College of Naturopaths of Ontario



Standard of Practice:

Inhalation

Introduction

The intent of this standard is to advise Members of the requirements to administer substances by inhalation safely, ethically and competently.

Administering substances by inhalation is a component of the controlled act: "Administering a substance by injection or inhalation" (*Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, S.O. 1991, CHAPTER 18, s. 27*).

Members are authorized to administer substances by inhalation under the *Naturopathy Act, 2007, S.O. 2007, CHAPTER 10, Sched. P, s. 4.1*.

Definitions

Substances: for the purposes of this Standard of Practice, a substance is anything referred to in Table 1 of the General Regulation.

Inhalation: For the purposes of this Standard of Practice inhalation is the administration of any substance by mask, nasal cannula or aerosol inhaler.

1. Competency

The Member has the knowledge, skill and judgment necessary to administer a substance by inhalation safely, ethically and competently

Performance Indicators

Prior to administering substances by inhalation, the Member is in compliance with the Standard of Practice for Prescribing.

2. Assessment and Administration

The Member conducts an assessment and formulates a working diagnosis based on subjective and/or objective findings prior to administering a substance by inhalation.

Performance Indicators

In addition to meeting the Standard of Practice for Performing Authorized Acts, the Member:

- assesses the patient for contraindications prior to administering a substance by inhalation;
- administers a substance for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes when it is clinically indicated;
- complies with the Standard of Practice for Compounding, where applicable, when mixing, preparing, packaging or labeling two or more substances listed in Table 1 of the General Regulation for the purpose of administering a customized therapeutic product to a patient by inhalation;
- administers an emergency substance listed on Table 1 of the General Regulation only when necessary and only to stabilize the patient until emergency personnel can attend to the patient.

3. Equipment

The Member ensures that all equipment and supplies used for inhalation are stored and maintained appropriately.

Performance Indicators

The Member:

- stores and maintains equipment and supplies according to manufacturers' specifications;
- checks equipment on a regular basis for functional integrity;
- ensures equipment is calibrated by appropriately trained personnel;
- ensures that all equipment is appropriately cleaned, disinfected and/or sterilized as per current infection prevention and control standards;
- disposes of equipment in an appropriate manner.

If the requirements listed above conflict with the manufacturers' specifications, the Member follows manufacturers' specifications.

Related Standards & Guidelines

Compounding
Consent
Emergency Preparedness
Infection Control
Performing Authorized Acts
Record Keeping

Legislative Framework

[General Regulation](#)

[Naturopathy Act, 2007](#)

[Professional Misconduct 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.