



The College of Naturopaths of Ontario

Standard of Practice:

Prescribing



Introduction

The intent of this standard is to advise Members of the requirements to prescribe drugs and substances listed on Table 3 of the General Regulation safely, ethically and competently.

Prescribing is a component of the controlled act: "Prescribing, dispensing, compounding or selling a drug designated in the regulations." (*Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, S.O. 1991, CHAPTER 18, s. 27*).

Members are authorized to prescribe a drug designated in the regulations under *the Naturopathy Act, 2007, S.O. 2007, CHAPTER 10, Sched. P, s.4.1*.

Definitions

Drug and Substance: For the purposes of this Standard of Practice a drug and/or substance is anything listed on Table 3 of the General Regulation.

1. Competency

The Member has the knowledge, skill and judgment to prescribe drugs or substances safely, ethically and competently.

Performance Indicators

Prior to prescribing drugs or substances, the Member will:

- achieve and maintain all prerequisites required for performing the procedure including the successful completion of:
 - a course on prescribing approved by the Council; and
 - an examination on prescribing administered or approved by the Council;
- fulfill all requirements for maintenance of competence for performing the procedure (e.g., continuing education, College's Quality Assurance Program).

2. Prescribing

The Member conducts an assessment and formulates a working diagnosis based on subjective and/or objective findings, prior to prescribing a drug or substance.

Performance Indicators

The Member has a Naturopathic Doctor-patient relationship with the patient for whom the drug or substance is being prescribed.

Before prescribing a drug or substance, the Member:

- assesses the patient and conducts laboratory and diagnostic investigations as appropriate;
- determines that the patient's condition warrants prescribing the drug or substance, having considered the risks and benefits and other circumstances relevant to the patient;
- documents symptoms and/or conditions being treated;
- reviews the patient's available medication history.

The Member who prescribes drugs or substances:

- does so in compliance with any limitations and in accordance with the route of administration and dosage specifications included in Table 3 of the General Regulation;
- informs each patient that they have a choice where they can purchase the prescribed drug or substance;
- provides a written prescription;
- provides a verbal prescription in emergency situations only and documents the verbal order as soon as possible;
- documents the drug or substance prescribed in the patient record;
- provides relevant information about drugs or substances, including but not limited to risks, contraindications, and proper usage, to the patient and/or authorized patient representative; and
- notifies the patient's other primary health care providers, if any, of the details of the prescription, with the patient's consent.

When preparing a prescription for a drug or substance, the Member includes the following on the prescription:

- date;
- patient's name and address;
- prescribed drug or substance's name or scientific binomial, strength, dose and quantity to be dispensed;
- directions for use including the administration route, frequency, dose, duration and any special instructions;
- number of allowable refills; and
- prescriber's name, address, telephone number, signature, and College registration number.

After prescribing a drug or substance, the Member:

- monitors and documents the patient's response to the therapy;
- monitors, documents and reports adverse reactions;
- continues therapy, adjusts dosage or discontinues the therapy as appropriate; and
- consults with an appropriate health care professional when the patient's response to the therapy is other than what the Member anticipated.

When a Member continues a drug or substance initiated by another health care professional, the Member:

- provides ongoing assessment;
- monitors and documents the patient's response to therapy;
- continues therapy, adjusts dosage or discontinues therapy depending on the patient's response;
- informs the initiating health care professional of changes in therapy, where appropriate and with the patient's consent.

3. Record Keeping

The Member makes specific notations regarding prescribing drugs and substances.

Performance Indicators

In addition to the Standard of Practice for Record Keeping, the Member maintains in the patient record:

- a copy of the prescription;
- a record of any laboratory or other tests that the Member considered in making the decision to prescribe the drug or substance;
- the names and address of the patient's other primary health care providers, the date on which the Member notified those other providers about the prescription and the method by which the notification occurred.

Related Standards & Guidelines

Compounding

Conflict of Interest

Delegation

Dispensing

Record Keeping

Selling

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.