



December 13, 2019

News



College granted injunction against unlicensed practitioner

Only people registered with the College can practise naturopathy in Ontario. People who are not registered and pretend to be naturopaths are practising illegally. When the College learns about these cases, we investigate each one and post the names of these individuals on the [Unauthorized Practitioners Register](#), including any injunctions against them.

On November 29, 2019 the Ontario Superior Court of Justice granted the College a permanent injunction restraining Mr. Denys Gagnon from offering or providing services that may only be provided by a Member of the College of Naturopaths of Ontario.

Specifically, Mr. Gagnon must not:

- use the protected titles, including “doctor”, “naturopath”, “Naturopathic Doctor”, and any variation or abbreviation, or equivalent in another language;
- hold himself out as being permitted to engage in the practice of naturopathy in Ontario; and
- engage in the practice of naturopathy in Ontario, including performing any controlled acts listed in section 4 of the [Naturopathy Act, 2007](#).

On November 1, 2017 the College served Mr. Gagnon with a Cease & Desist notice to immediately cease all activities contrary to the legislation that regulates naturopathy in Ontario. These activities included advertising and/or practising as a “naturopath” and using the protected titles including “doctor”, “naturopathy”, and “Naturopathic Doctor”. Mr. Gagnon subsequently signed a confirmation that he had read and understood the notice and had ceased all restricted activities.

On February 15, 2019, the College received information from an anonymous source suggesting that Mr. Gagnon was continuing to hold out and practise as a naturopath in Hawkesbury, Ontario. Based on the information, a College investigator attended Mr. Gagnon's clinic posing as a patient to obtain more information, whereby Mr. Gagnon repeatedly used the protected titles, engaged in the practice of naturopathy, and held himself out as someone permitted to practise in Ontario. The College then applied to the Ontario Superior Court for an injunction, which was granted on November 29, 2019.

Receiving health services from an unlicensed or unregistered practitioner is risky and has the potential for complications. There are no assurances that the practitioner is competent or qualified to provide treatment, or that any materials or equipment used are safe. Anyone seeking care from a naturopath in Ontario is encouraged to visit the [College's Public Register](#). This online directory lists naturopaths who are registered with the College and thus authorized to provide naturopathic care to patients. The Register is an important resource for the public to check a naturopath's background and credentials.

Your opportunity to GET INVOLVED!

Join over 80 members of the profession who volunteer with the College. We have opportunities to suit any schedule. Reach out to us today at volunteers@collegeofnaturopaths.on.ca and we will endeavour to match an open volunteer opportunity within your availability and interests!

You can also visit our [Volunteer Opportunities webpage](#) for more details.

Registration Renewal 2020

Mark your calendar! Registration renewal opens on February 14. Note the new time deadline of 5 p.m. on March 31.

Pre-renewal tips:

- Are you planning on changing your registration class? You have until March 17 to do it. Processing a class change takes time and you won't be able to renew until the change has been completed. [Learn more](#).
- Make sure your Professional Liability Insurance is up to date and that you have entered the current information on your Member profile.
- If you have changed your name, complete the [Name Change Form](#) ahead of time to avoid processing delays.

Mandatory patient privacy breach reports due March 1

In addition to taking immediate action if the privacy of a patient's personal health information has been breached, all health information custodians (including NDs) must report breaches to the [Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario \(IPC\)](#) each year.

Privacy breaches may include information about a patient that was stolen, lost, used without authority, and/or disclosed without authority. Any regulated health professional who had at least one privacy breach of a patient's personal health information during the 2019 reporting year—from January to December, are required by law to complete the online reporting form by March 1, 2020. If you have an existing account, [click here](#).

If it's your first year reporting Annual Health Information Breach, you will need a login ID for the Online Statistical Reporting System. If you do not have one, or have lost or forgotten it, you can get one by emailing the IPC at statistics.ipc@ipc.on.ca.

Do not submit a statistical report if you did not have any patient health information privacy breaches in 2019.

Annual Report 2018/19

We have received a lot of great feedback about our one-page infographic of key stats! [Read it here](#).

FAQ



Each News Bulletin highlights a practise-related FAQ and response from our [Regulatory Education Specialist](#).

Can I bill it as a naturopathic visit when I send my patients to the nutritionist in my clinic who discusses a diet plan that incorporates the dietary recommendations I have made?

No. Members may only charge patients for the assessments and treatments that they themselves provide. The nutritionist is providing nutritional counselling and not naturopathic care. Billing for nutritional counselling provided by another person as naturopathic services, even though they are working at your clinic, can be deemed as professional misconduct and fraudulent billing.

Deadlines & Reminders



- **HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE:** The College will be closed from December 24, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. and will reopen on January 2, 2020.
- **Upcoming exam registration deadlines:**
 - Ontario Clinical Exam (Practical) closes on January 6, 2020
 - Ontario Clinical Sciences Exam closes January 16, 2020
- **Next Council meeting:** January 28 & 29, 2020. Meetings are open to the public and College Members. Seating is limited, so please [register in advance](#) if you would like to attend.

Practice Resources



Here are just a couple of the many practice-related topics on our website.

[Moving Between Provinces](#) – An overview of how it works when an ND in one regulated province wants to move to another regulated Canadian province.

Guideline spotlight: [Conflict of Interest](#)

Read our latest blog posts!

- [Myth Busters – common misconceptions](#)
- [The Public Register: an important patient resource](#)
- [6 Tips to Avoid Insurance Related Complaints](#)
- [7 Tips for Using Electronic Records in Your Practice](#)
- [Medical Devices](#)

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