

# COMMUNICATING A NATUROPATHIC DIAGNOSIS

## Intent

To advise Registrants who incorporate the controlled act of communicating a naturopathic diagnosis in their naturopathic practice of the requirements to perform the procedure safely, ethically and competently.

## Definition

Diagnosis: The scope of practice of Naturopathy as outlined in section 3 of the [Naturopathy Act 2007](#) includes “diagnosis” as follows: “The practice of naturopathy is the assessment of diseases, disorders and dysfunctions and the naturopathic diagnosis and treatment of diseases, disorders and dysfunctions using naturopathic techniques to promote, maintain or restore health.” A naturopathic diagnosis is defined as a diagnosis made by a Naturopath.

Delegation: A process whereby a Registrant authorized to perform a controlled act procedure under the [Naturopathy Act, 2007](#) confers that authority to someone - regulated or unregulated - who is not so authorized and not a member of this profession (e.g. a ND registered with the College of Naturopaths of Ontario cannot delegate an authorized act to another ND registered with the College of Naturopaths of Ontario).

## STANDARD 1

*The Registrant has acquired and maintains the knowledge, skill and judgment necessary to communicate a naturopathic diagnosis of a disease, disorder or dysfunction safely, ethically and competently.*

A Registrant demonstrates the standard by:

- maintaining competency for communicating a naturopathic diagnosis by engaging in continuing education and/or incorporating communicating a naturopathic diagnosis as a regular part of their clinical practice,
- formulating a diagnosis based on a clinical assessment including one or more of the following:
  - the patient’s health history and clinical presentation,
  - objective evaluation, including a physical examination, and/or
  - relevant diagnostic testing or investigations.
- considering the differential diagnoses in the process of formulating a diagnosis,
- only communicating a naturopathic diagnosis that is within the scope of naturopathic practice and the Registrant’s individual training and knowledge,
- communicating a naturopathic diagnosis within the context of the naturopathic doctor–patient relationship, and
- documenting the diagnosis in the patient record in accordance with the *Standard of Practice: Record Keeping*.

## STANDARD 2

*The Registrant communicates a naturopathic diagnosis to a patient or the patient’s authorized representative.*

A Registrant demonstrates the standard by:

- ensuring the patient fully understands the diagnosis by,
  - reviewing how the diagnosis may impact the patient,
  - reviewing with the patient the treatment options available, and

- responding to any questions from the patient.
- allowing the patient the opportunity to get a second opinion and provide any necessary information to facilitate a referral.

### **STANDARD 3**

*The Registrant does not delegate the act of communicating a naturopathic diagnosis to any individual or health care professional.*

A Registrant demonstrates the standard by:

- performing the act themselves, and
- ensuring that communicating a naturopathic diagnosis to a patient or patient's authorized representative is not delegated to another individual.