

Standard of Practice: Acupuncture

Standard of Practice

When performing acupuncture, naturopathic doctors must do so in a safe, competent and ethical manner.

Introduction

A complete list of restricted activities is found in the *Government Organization Act S.7.1*. Restricted activities authorized for naturopathic doctors are listed in the *Naturopaths Profession Regulation*. Naturopathic doctors are granted the restricted activity of administering an acupuncture needle below the dermis or the mucous membrane for the purpose of acupuncture.

This standard is intended to outline how naturopathic doctors can provide safe, competent and ethical care, when performing acupuncture for a patient.

Definitions

Acupuncture: the insertion and removal of acupuncture needles into specific points in the body for therapeutic purposes.

Competence: the combined knowledge, skills, attitudes and judgment required to provide professional services, defined in the *Health Professions Act*.

Patient medical record: an account or evidence of documented patient findings, assessments, diagnoses and treatments.

Restricted activities: indicated activities performed as part of providing a health service that require specific competencies and skills to be carried out safely. Restricted activities are not linked to any particular health profession and a number of regulated health professionals may perform a particular restricted activity. A complete list of restricted activities is found in the *Government Organization Act S.7.1*. Restricted activities authorized for naturopathic doctors are listed in the *Naturopaths Profession Regulation*.

Standard of Practice: an authoritative statement that describes a minimum required behaviour of every naturopathic doctor and is used to evaluate individual conduct. Naturopathic doctors should always strive to practice above the minimum standards. Performance below the minimum standard may result in disciplinary action.

Naturopathic doctors demonstrate this standard of practice by:

1. only performing acupuncture with authorization by the Registrar and in accordance with any restrictions or provisions required by the Registrar;
2. ensuring that all required qualifications to perform acupuncture are current, in accordance with the **CNDA Continuing Competence Program Rules**;
3. having skills and knowledge of:
 - a) theory and principles of acupuncture,
 - b) anatomy, acupuncture points, acupuncture meridians,
 - c) assessment and diagnosis,

- d) treatment techniques, including needle angle and depth, and
- e) indications and contraindications;
4. properly documenting acupuncture treatments in the patient medical record in accordance with the **CNDA Standard of Practice: Records Keeping** and must include:
 - a) acupuncture needle gauge and size used,
 - b) acupuncture point(s) needled, including laterality,
 - c) angle and depth of acupuncture needle(s),
 - d) state of acupuncture needle(s) removed, and
 - e) state of patient upon conclusion of treatment;
5. having knowledge of and performing acupuncture in accordance with the following CNDA standards:
 - a) **CNDA Standard of Practice: General**,
 - b) **CNDA Standard of Practice: Consent**,
 - c) **CNDA Standard of Practice: Duty to Report**,
 - d) **CNDA Standard of Practice: Clean Needle Technique**,
 - e) **CNDA Standard of Practice: Emergency Readiness**,
 - f) **CNDA Standard of Practice: Infectious Disease Prevention and Control**; and,
 - g) **CNDA Guideline: Medical Devices and Technologies**;
6. complying with supervision requirements as set out in the *Naturopaths Profession Regulation*, when supervising another naturopathic doctor performing this restricted activity.

Expected Outcomes

Patients are satisfied that:

- naturopathic doctors perform acupuncture safely, competently and ethically.

Related Documents

Government Organization Act

Health Professions Act

Naturopaths Profession Regulation

CNDA Code of Ethics

CNDA Continuing Competence Program Rules

CNDA Standard of Practice: Records Keeping

CNDA Standard of Practice: General

CNDA Standard of Practice: Consent

CNDA Standard of Practice: Duty to Report

CNDA Standard of Practice: Clean Needle Technique

CNDA Standard of Practice: Emergency Readiness

CNDA Standard of Practice: Infectious Disease Prevention and Control

CNDA Guideline: Medical Devices and Technologies

