
Standard of Practice: Naturopathic Injection Therapies

Standard of Practice

When performing naturopathic injection therapies, 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 a needle below the dermis for the purpose of providing naturopathic injection therapies.

There are three types of naturopathic injection therapies that this standard provides for: intramuscular injections, intradermal injections, and subcutaneous injections. This standard is intended to outline how naturopathic doctors can provide safe, competent and ethical care, when performing naturopathic injection therapies for a patient.

Definitions

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

Intradermal injection: administering a substance via a needle into the corium of the skin.

Intramuscular injection: administering a substance via a needle into muscle tissue.

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.

Subcutaneous injection: administering a substance via a needle into subcutaneous tissue.

Naturopathic doctors demonstrate this standard of practice by:

1. only performing naturopathic injection therapies 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 naturopathic injection therapies are current, in accordance with the **CNDA Continuing Competence Program Rules**;
3. having skills and knowledge of:
 - a) theory and principles of naturopathic injection therapies,

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- b) assessment and diagnosis,
 - c) how to prepare solutions for injections safely and competently,
 - d) treatment techniques, and
 - e) indications and contraindications;
4. ensuring proper documentation of naturopathic injection therapies in the patient medical record in accordance with the **CNDA Standard of Practice: Records Keeping** and must include:
 - a) vital signs,
 - b) formula and concentration of solution for injection,
 - c) injection administration site(s),
 - d) size and gauge of needle(s) used,
 - e) volume of solution administered,
 - f) state of needle(s) when removed, and
 - g) state of patient upon conclusion of treatment;
 5. ensuring proper preparation of solutions to be administered, including:
 - a. preparing solutions as close as possible to administration;
 - b. keeping solutions labelled until administration; and,
 - c. ensuring the same person who prepares the solution administers it;
 6. ensuring written protocols are in place and followed when collaborating with another regulated health care professional within a clinic/health care setting as per the **CNDA Standard of Practice: Collaboration in Patient Care** and **CNDA Standard of Practice: General**
 7. having knowledge of and performing naturopathic injection therapies in accordance with the following CNDA standards:
 - a) **CNDA Standard of Practice: General**,
 - b) **CNDA Standard of Practice: Consent**,
 - c) **CNDA Standard of Practice: Collaboration in Patient Care**,
 - d) **CNDA Standard of Practice: Duty to Report**,
 - e) **CNDA Standard of Practice: Clean Needle Technique**,
 - f) **CNDA Standard of Practice: Emergency Readiness**, and
 - g) **CNDA Standard of Practice: Infectious Disease Prevention and Control**;
 8. having knowledge of and applying the principles of the **CNDA Guideline: Collaboration in Patient Care**; and,
 9. 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 naturopathic injection therapies safely, competently and ethically.

Related Documents

Government Organization Act

Health Professions Act

Naturopaths Profession Regulation

CNDA Code of Ethics

CNDA Standard of Practice: General

CNDA Standard of Practice: Consent

CNDA Standard of Practice: Collaboration in Patient Care

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: Collaboration in Patient Care in a Shared Health Care Setting