
Standard of Practice: Clean Needle Technique

Standard of Practice

Naturopathic doctors must perform procedures and treatments that involve the use of needles safely and competently.

Introduction

Procedures or treatments by naturopathic doctors that involve a needle include, but are not limited to, the following:

- acupuncture,
- collection of blood specimens, including venipuncture,
- intravenous chelation therapy,
- intravenous ozone therapy,
- intravenous therapy,
- minor surgery,
- naturopathic injection therapies, and
- prolotherapy and platelet-rich plasma therapy.

Definitions

Competence: the integrated knowledge, skills, judgement and attributes required of a naturopathic doctor to practise safely and ethically.

Needle: a sharp instrument used for suturing, for puncturing, or for the guiding of ligatures.

Restricted activities: the indicated activities performed as part of providing a health service that require specific competencies and skills to be carried out safely, as defined in the *Government Organization Act s.7.1* and the *Health Professions Act*. 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.

Sterile technique: the use of practices that restrict microorganisms in the environment and prevent contamination.

Naturopathic doctors demonstrate this standard of practice by:

1. performing hand hygiene with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub prior to and after patient contact involving any procedure or treatment involving a needle;
2. ensuring that only clean objects come into contact with other clean objects;
3. ensuring that contaminated objects are not used, by disposing of critical and semi-critical single-use medical devices (e.g. syringes, needles) into a medical sharps container after use;
4. only using needles that are single-use, disposable and sterile when providing any procedure or treatment involving a needle;
5. ensuring that the medical sharps containers used are:
 - a) clearly labelled,
 - b) puncture-resistant,
 - c) tamper-proof,
 - d) closable,
 - e) leak-proof,
 - f) single-use (not emptied and re-used),
 - g) available at point-of-use,
 - h) not overfilled,
 - i) replaced when the fill line is reached, and
 - j) securely stored until final disposal;
6. adhering to the **CNDA Standard of Practice: Infectious Disease Prevention and Control**;
7. ensuring a plan is in place to manage any critical or unexpected events including adverse events associated with performing diagnostic or therapeutic procedures, according to the **CNDA Standard of Practice: Emergency Readiness**.

Expected Outcomes

Patients are satisfied that:

- naturopathic doctors are competent in using clean technique when performing any procedure or treatment involving a needle.

Related Documents

Government Organization Act

Health Professions Act

Naturopaths Profession Regulation

CNDA Code of Ethics

CNDA Standard of Practice: Infectious Disease Prevention and Control

CNDA Standard of Practice: Emergency Readiness