

## 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 oxidative 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 requires 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:** an authoritative statement that describes a required behaviour of every naturopathic doctor and is used to evaluate individual conduct.

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

### Naturopathic doctors demonstrate this standard 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) closeable,
  - 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 Control and Prevention**;
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 sterile 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 Control and Prevention

CNDA Standard of Practice: Emergency Readiness

