
Standard of Practice: Collaboration in Patient Care

Standard of Practice

When collaborating with other health care professionals, naturopathic doctors must clearly communicate with other health care professionals ethically and respectfully.

Introduction

In delivering safe, competent and ethical naturopathic medical care, naturopathic doctors shall work in collaboration with other health care professionals. Such collaboration is important to achieve optimal health outcomes for the patient.

Definitions

Accountability: the obligation to answer for the professional, ethical and legal responsibilities of one's activities and duties.

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

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.

Therapeutic relationship: a planned and interpersonal process occurring between the naturopathic doctor and patient that is established for the advancement of the patient's health and well-being.

Naturopathic doctors demonstrate this standard of practice by:

1. collaborating with other health care professionals when there are multiple health care professionals providing care to a patient and requested to do so by the patient;
2. collaborating with other health care professionals in a manner consistent with the **CNDA Code of Ethics** and the **CNDA Standards of Practice**;
3. communicating clearly and effectively with other health care professionals;
4. documenting accurately and clearly their contribution in the patient's care in accordance with **CNDA Standard of Practice: Records Keeping**; and
5. clearly explaining their roles and responsibilities to the patient and other health care professionals.

Expected Outcomes

Patients are satisfied that:

- their naturopathic doctor will communicate effectively when collaborating with other health care professionals on their health care team, leading to improved patient health outcomes and patient safety.

Related Documents

CNDA Code of Ethics

CNDA Standard of Practice: General

CNDA Standard of Practice: Transfer and Termination of Care

CNDA Standard of Practice: Records Keeping

CNDA Guideline: Collaboration in Patient Care in a Shared Healthcare Setting