
Standard of Practice: Emergency Readiness

Standard of Practice

Naturopathic doctors must be prepared for and competent in managing emergency situations that may occur in clinical practice.

Introduction

Emergency situations can occur anywhere and at any time. Naturopathic doctors must be cognizant of these situations and have a plan and the means to respond accordingly. Appendix I is provided as a resource and outlines a list of supplies and equipment that may be required depending on the level of risk associated with the naturopathic doctor's practice.

Definitions

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

Emergency situation: a situation that poses immediate risk to the health or life of a person in the clinical setting.

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

Restricted activities: specified activities performed as part of providing a health service that require indicated 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*.

Naturopathic doctors demonstrate this standard by:

1. assessing their practices and maintaining competence in emergency procedures appropriate for risk of emergency situations based on, at a minimum, the following:
 - a) volume of patients,
 - b) volume of high-risk procedures,
 - c) proximity to a hospital,
 - d) proximity to an emergency room,
 - e) acuity of illness of patients,
 - f) breadth of practice (including restricted activities), and
 - g) access to emergency medical services;
2. maintaining competence in emergency procedures in accordance with the **CNDA Continuing Competence Program Rules;**
3. ensuring emergency plan procedures are in place to manage any critical or unexpected events including adverse events associated with performing diagnostic or therapeutic procedures;
4. ensuring emergency plan procedures include when to call emergency services (i.e. 911);

5. ensuring emergency plan procedures are compliant with **CNDA Standard of Practice: Infectious Disease Prevention and Control**;
6. maintaining written emergency plan procedures for the clinic setting that are readily accessible;
7. ensuring WHMIS information is available for required substances in clinic;
8. ensuring all staff members are aware of and trained in emergency procedures that might be required in the course of performing their roles; and
9. ensuring emergency supplies and equipment, as outlined in **Appendix I**, are readily accessible, stored appropriately, in good working order and not expired.

Expected Outcomes

Patients are satisfied that:

- naturopathic doctors have clear and reasonable plans in place to handle emergency situations; and
- naturopathic doctors are able to execute these emergency plans when required.

Related Documents

Government Organization Act

Health Professions Act

Naturopaths Profession Regulation

CNDA Code of Ethics

CNDA Continuing Competence Program Rules

CNDA Standard of Practice: Infectious Disease Prevention and Control



Appendix I

The following list comprises those supplies and equipment that may be required and it would be expected that the type of emergency equipment in the naturopathic doctor's clinical setting would correspond with the level of risk associated with their practice. This list is not exhaustive.

Supplies and Equipment	May be required based on assessed risk	While performing the restricted activities of acupuncture, colon hydrotherapy, hyperbaric oxygen therapy and manipulation.	While performing the restricted activities of naturopathic injection therapies and prolotherapy.	While performing the restricted activity of intravenous chelation therapy, intravenous therapy, minor surgery and ozone therapy.
pocket mask for cardiopulmonary resuscitation;	✓	✓	✓	✓
basic dressing supplies;	✓	✓	✓	✓
syringes;	✓		✓	✓
needles;	✓		✓	✓
alcohol	✓	✓	✓	✓
gauze, bandages, micropore tape, cotton balls, scissors;	✓	✓	✓	✓
single-use, disposable non latex gloves;	✓	✓	✓	✓
smelling salt (amyl nitrate) or essential oil (peppermint);	✓	✓	✓	✓
epi-pen or ampoules of epinephrine;	✓	✓	✓	✓
oxygen tank with regulator 0-10L/min with mask or nasal cannula;	✓	✓	✓	✓
resuscitation bag with O2 attachment; and	✓	✓	✓	✓
charged automated external defibrillator.	✓	✓	✓	✓
glucometer	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pulse-oximeter	✓	✓	✓	✓
armboard;				✓
normal saline bags;				✓
dextrose 5% (D5W) bags;				✓

lactated Ringer's bags;				✓
calcium gluconate 10%;				✓

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magnesium chloride 20% or magnesium sulfate 50%;				✓
applicable antidotes for all IV drugs being administered;				✓
Heparin (1000 IU/ml)				✓
diphenhydramine (Benadryl) for oral administration;			✓	✓
fast-acting glucose (i.e. tablets, juice)			✓	✓
non latex tourniquets; and				✓
IV tubing, administration sets, and angiocatheters.				✓

