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# Enlighten

*News from the CNPBC*



**September 2023**

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## **PharmaNet Access Reminder**

This is a reminder that the deadline for registrants to sign up for PharmaNet access by enrolling in PRIME is November 15, 2023. Access to PharmaNet will be a condition to gaining or renewing certification in Prescriptive Authority as of November 15, 2023.

Any registrant who has not already done so is strongly encouraged to enrol in PRIME as soon as possible so that their enrolment can be processed in time to meet the deadline.

## **Why is access to PharmaNet required?**

The College made the decision to require access to PharmaNet to promote best practices among prescribing registrants and to promote better safety and health outcomes for patients.

Access to PharmaNet ensures that prescribers have a full and accurate picture of their patients' prescription history, which helps to prevent over-prescribing and adverse drug interactions. For patients, this means increased safety and better health outcomes. For prescribers, this means less risk of causing an adverse reaction to treatment in their patients, and therefore less risk of facing complaints or liability associated with negative patient experiences.

### **Questions about how to enrol in PRIME?**

For more information on how enrol in Prime, including video tutorials, please visit these links:

- [PRIME landing page](#)
- [CNPBC May 2022 Newsletter](#)

Any questions about enrolling in PRIME should be directed to [PRIMESupport@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PRIMESupport@gov.bc.ca) or 1-844-397-7463.



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### **Restricted Activities Document - Updates**

The CNPBC Board, with the help of the Quality Assurance Committee, has updated the [Restricted Activities Document](#) to include new limits and conditions for the following practices:

#### **Plasma Gel or Platelet Rich Plasma (PRF)**

At the September 6th, 2023 meeting, the CNPBC Board reviewed the use of Plasma Gel and PRF for aesthetic purposes. It was determined that the potential risks of administering PRF necessitate expertise in both Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP) and injectable filler techniques.

As such, the Board made a motion that, prior to administering Plasma Gel/PRF treatments, registrants must hold CNPBC certifications in [PRP for Aesthetics purposes](#), [Injectable Fillers](#) and [Prescriptive Authority](#). They also must have a current qualification in Naturopathic Advanced Life Support (NALS).

Registrants administering Plasma Gel/PRF treatments for aesthetic purposes are subject to the treatment area restrictions determined by their Injectable Fillers Certification level

#### **Peripherally inserted central catheters (PICCs) and Ports**

On September 6th, 2023, the Board confirmed that the use of existing PICCS and ports by registrants is permissible. The Board updated the requirements to include that registrants must have additional education\* in PICCs and ports prior to accessing existing ones.

**Registrants do not insert PICCs or ports.**

### **Allergy Testing and Treatment**

The CNPBC Board reviewed the practice of conducting challenge testing and desensitizing treatments for allergens (also known as Low Dose Antigen Therapy) that involve:

- injection, scratch tests or inhalation, if the individual being tested has not had a previous anaphylactic reaction, or
- any method, if the individual being tested has had a previous anaphylactic reaction

The Board updated the Restricted Activities Document to require additional education as well as current CNPBC certification in Prescriptive Authority for NDs who engage in these practices. The following are the updated requirements for conducting challenge testing and desensitizing treatments:

*Registrants must have current CNPBC certification in Prescriptive Authority, additional education\*, current qualifications in Naturopathic Advanced Life Support (NALS) and emergency equipment in place including epinephrine.*

*\*“Additional education” is structured education, e.g., workshop, course, program of study, designed so that registrants can attain the competencies required to carry out a specific activity as part of naturopathic practice. Additional education builds on the entry-level competencies of naturopathic doctors; identifies the competencies expected of learners on completion of the education; includes both theory and application to practice, and includes an objective, external evaluation of learners’ competencies on completion of the education. The term does not refer to a course or program approved for a CNPBC certification.*

The updates can be found in the [Restricted Activities Document](#) and will be **effective October 1st, 2023**. CNPBC wishes to remind registrants that, as in the case for all naturopathic services, you are required to meet all your professional obligations under the [Bylaws, Codes of Conduct and Ethics](#), and various [practice standards](#) while providing these treatments. This includes but is not limited to managing all the intended and unintended consequences of the treatment. CNPBC recommends that registrants thoroughly review the complete Restricted Activities Document regularly



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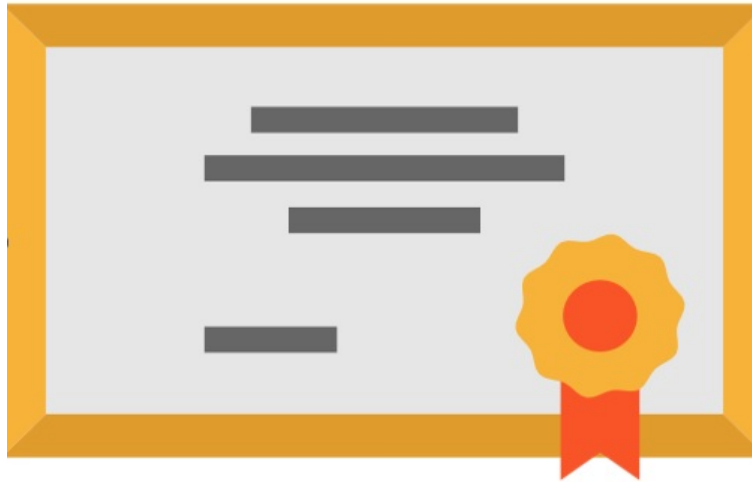
## Update on Aesthetic Procedures Certifications

The CNPBC Board has examined the practice requirements for a number of aesthetic procedures and reviewed the recommendations provided by the Quality Assurance Committee. **Effective January 1st, 2024**, the CNPBC will discontinue the following certifications:

- Facial mesotherapy, fat reduction and body contouring using injection or other devices
- Photorejuvenation and high frequency electromagnetic treatments
- Microdermabrasion and chemical peels

Registrants will be required to have “additional education” in these activities prior to engaging in them. "Additional Education" is defined in the [Restricted Activities Document](#). Registrants are reminded that when utilizing this and any other modality, they will continue to be required to meet the [Professional Standards](#) and [Scope of Practice Standards](#). Included in these standards is a requirement for naturopathic doctors to ensure they have the competency to:

- make decisions about whether the patient would benefit from the activity, having considered:
  - the known risks and benefits to the patient;
  - the predictability of outcomes of performing the activity;
  - other relevant factors specific to the patient or situation.
- carry out the activity safely and ethically;
- safely manage the intended and unintended outcomes of performing the activity.



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### **New Practice Standard**

Practice Standards are legally enforceable standards which set out requirements related to specific aspects of naturopathic doctors' practices. Practice standards are provided for under s.19 of the [Health Professions Act](#). They link with other standards, policies, and bylaws of the College of Naturopathic Physicians of BC, and all legislation relevant to the practice of naturopathic medicine. The College has published a new practice standard on the supervision of restricted and non-restricted activities that will come into effect **October 1st, 2023**.

#### [Practice Standard: Supervision of Restricted and Non-Restricted Activities](#)

This standard sets out the CNPBC requirements and restrictions for the supervision of restricted and non-restricted activities. In addition, CNPBC has published an updated [Preceptorship Policy](#) and [Continuing Education \(CE\) Policy: Supervised practice/Preceptorship](#) to replace the previous Mentorship/Preceptorship Policy. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with these new documents.



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### **Scope of Practice: Fistulotomy and Minor Surgery**

The CNPBC Board reminds all registrants that naturopathic doctors are only permitted to perform surgical procedures which fall within the definition of “Minor Surgery” as set out in section 1 of the [Naturopathic Physicians Regulation](#):

*"minor surgery" means a surgical procedure that*

- a. *is performed, for a diagnostic or therapeutic purpose, on a superficial anatomical structure, and*
- b. *does not involve*
  - i. *sedation, general anaesthesia or respiratory assistance, or*
  - ii. *a material risk to life*

The Board clarified at its September 6, 2023 meeting that fistulotomies, fistulectomies or any other procedures that involve the cutting of tissue beyond the anal verge are excluded from the scope of practice for naturopathic doctors. Structures beyond this point are not considered to be superficial, and therefore are excluded from the scope of practice by legislation. Please note that this does not affect the status of non-surgical procedures beyond the anal verge, such as banding treatment of hemorrhoids.

Registrants who continue to practice surgical procedures beyond the anal verge, or on any other non-superficial anatomical structure, will be subject to investigation by the Inquiry Committee.

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## **ND Competencies Survey Coming Soon**

You may already be aware that the BC College of Naturopathic Physicians is working closely with the Canadian Alliance of Naturopathic Regulatory Authorities (CANRA) to develop a national, entry-to-practice competency profile for Naturopathic Doctors (NDs). This document will outline various competencies (i.e., skills, knowledge and attributes) that every aspiring ND must possess before they embark on their professional journey and are granted the ability to practice.

The Competency Profile may be used by provincial regulators for many purposes, including but not limited to:

- Setting entry-to-practice requirements
- Communicating NDs' role, practice and responsibilities to the public and stakeholders
- Providing advice/guidance to members/registrants
- Developing standards of practice and policies
- Informing matters related to professional conduct
- Developing blueprints and items for entry-to-practice exams
- To inform continuing education and professional development requirements.

These competencies enable new NDs entering the profession to provide safe, competent, ethical care to their patients.

A team of subject matter experts from across the country is actively working on drafting a set of competencies that are based on current salient documentation and standards.

### **Here's where we need your help.**

To ensure that these competencies are reflective of day-to-day practice, CANRA will be conducting a survey of all registered NDs across Canada. This survey offers every ND in Canada the chance to play an important role in the future of the profession. We need all of you to lend us your expertise, as you understand your practice best.

This survey will run for three weeks from October 2nd to 22nd. You'll be asked to rate the importance, frequency and appropriateness of the draft competencies, and to let us know whether you any are missing.

The survey should only take around 30-45 minutes to complete and can be done over several shorter sessions. Your answers are strictly confidential and will be used for analysis and reporting. All responses are anonymous, and no individually identifying information will be collected.

**The CNPBC will send all registrants a link to the survey in October 2023.**

The practice of naturopathic medicine is ever-evolving, and the demand for qualified and skilled NDs is on the rise. Please accept our invitation to be a part of this transformative endeavour, that will help define the future of the profession across the country and contribute to safe naturopathic care in British Columbia and across Canada.

Your voice matters, your experiences count, and together, we can usher in a new era of naturopathic excellence.

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***We acknowledge with respect that the land on which we gather is the unceded and traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples - skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), selílwitulh (Tseil-Waututh), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) nations whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.***



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