

# Enlighten

*News from the CNPBC*



**August 2021**

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## **Pharmacopoeia and Diagnostics Referral Committee**

The next Pharmacopoeia and Diagnostic Referral Committee (PDR Committee) meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2021. If registrants wish to submit an excluded drug application form for the PDR Committee to consider, please email a copy of the completed form to [office@cnpbc.bc.ca](mailto:office@cnpbc.bc.ca) by **September 1, 2021**. You can find a copy of the form by clicking [here](#).

If you have any questions about the PDR Committee or the excluded drug application form, please contact the College at [office@cnpbc.bc.ca](mailto:office@cnpbc.bc.ca).

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## **Advertising**

It has come to the College's attention that the advertising of some naturopathic doctors in BC does not comply with the [Food and Drugs Act](#) (the *FDA*), the [Food and Drugs Regulation](#) (the *FD Regulation*), Health Canada advertising policies, College bylaws, College advertising policy and the College's code of conduct/ethics.

As a reminder, registrants are not permitted to advertise any of the following to the public, pursuant to the *FDA and FD Regulation*:

- **Compounded products, including IV vitamin therapies and Platelet Rich Plasma** therapy as treatment. Health Canada's [POL-0051: Policy on Manufacturing and Compounding Drug Products](#) states that any advertising of a

compounded product would be deemed an advertisement for sale of an unlicensed drug product, which is prohibited. It is Health Canada's position that a compounded product or compounding service may not be advertised to the public. Registrants can advertise that their clinics offer IV therapy and Platelet Rich Plasma therapy but are not permitted to advertise either the details of IV mixes or what conditions IV therapy or Platelet Rich Plasma therapy treat. The risks and benefits of these treatments should be discussed with patients during consultations.

- **Botox, Xeomin, or other prescription drugs.** These are prohibited under section C.01.044 of the *FD Regulation*, from any advertising except "...the brand name, the proper name, the common name and the price and quantity of the drug." For example, naturopathic doctors are not permitted to advertise that Botox or dermal fillers can treat skin conditions. Naturopathic doctors may advertise that the clinic offers treatment for skin concerns but may not advertise what drug would be used to treat those concerns. This means that all references to Botox or dermal fillers for the treatment of conditions must be removed from websites and other online advertising platforms.
- **Natural Health Products** for conditions outside their terms of market authorization. For example, naturopathic doctors cannot advertise Mistletoe or Vitamin C for the treatment of cancer, but can advertise that their clinic offers these treatments and that the risks and benefits should be discussed in patient consultations.

Registrants are not only prohibited from expressly advertising any of the above but, further, may not advertise a link that would take the public to an external or third-party source that contains information about the noted items.

Clinic websites that are large, unwieldy, or linked to external sources run the risk of being in violation of the *FDA*, *FD Regulation*, the College bylaws, College advertising policy, and College code of conduct/ethics. It is recommended that registrants ensure that all advertising is accurate, complete, succinct, and easy for the public to follow.

While the College is not responsible for developing the *FDA*, *FD Regulation* and Health Canada advertising policies, it does have the ability to investigate and ensure compliance, quite separate and apart from Health Canada's ability to address violations.

Registrants are also reminded that a similar communication was issued by the College on September 24, 2020 and can be found on the [College website](#).



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## Approved Continuing Education Courses

The College announces that the following continuing education courses have been approved for continuing education credits.

### Category G – Ethics, Professionalism & Cultural Safety

1. Canadian History Through the Lens of Indigenous Women, available through Deyen, for 2 hours. Any excess hours can be used for continuing education credits in Category C – Other Educational Conferences, Courses or Seminars.

### Category F – Prescribing Authority

1. Does 1+1+1 = 2 or 3?... A Deep Dive into COPD Puffer Escalation, presented by BC Naturopathic Association, for 0.75 hours; and

2. Webinar 4: A New Generation of Diabetes Drugs: Exploring the if, when, and how of rational prescribing, presented by BC Naturopathic Association, for 0.75 hours.



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## **Research Study on ‘Presenteeism’**

‘Presenteeism’, or ‘working while ill’, refers to the culture of continuing to work despite not being fully functional or productive due to an illness or medical condition that may not be apparent to coworkers. Frances Jorgensen, Professor of Organisational Behaviour at Royal Roads University, is investigating how engaging in presenteeism during the pandemic, whatever the motivation, can impact the wellbeing and mental health of Canadian healthcare workers.

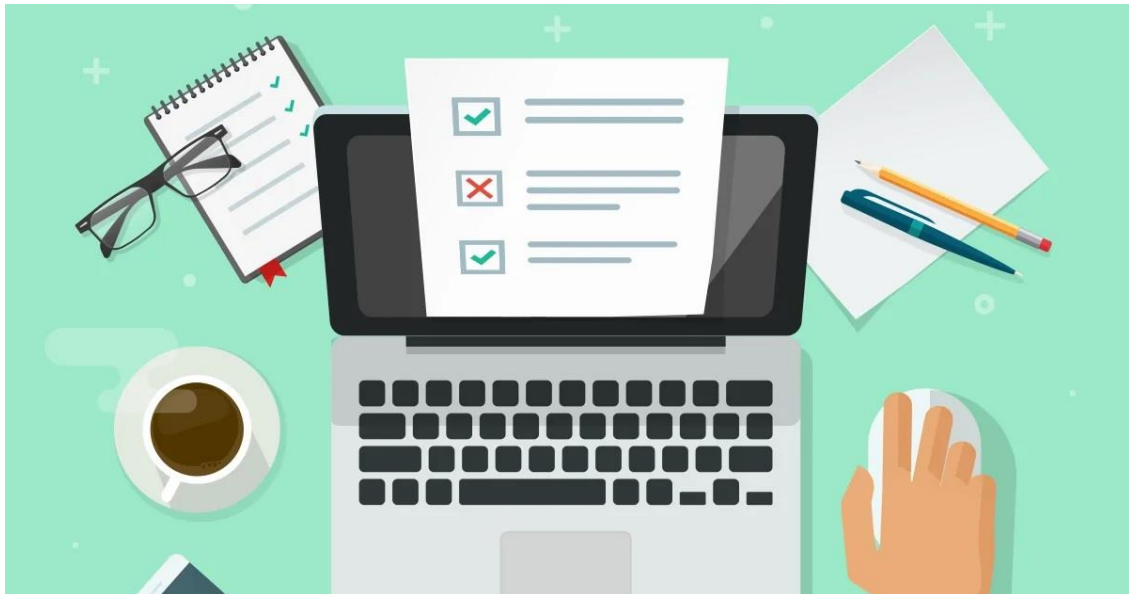
Registrants are invited to participate in this study by completing the online survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/FZPWL9N>.

Focus groups will be conducted at a later stage to better understand survey responses.

When you get to the end of the survey you will be able to indicate whether you would be interested in participating in a focus group.

*Survey responses are anonymous, and participation is completely voluntary.* The research has been approved by the Royal Roads Ethics Review Board. Prospective participants may verify the authenticity of this project by contacting Interim Dean Robert Mittelman at [robert.mittelman@royalroads.ca](mailto:robert.mittelman@royalroads.ca)

Professor Jorgensen will be most appreciative of support and participation from among our registrants. She invites anyone with questions to email her at [Frances.Jorgensen@royalroads.ca](mailto:Frances.Jorgensen@royalroads.ca)



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## **College Signs Joint Statement of Apology & Commitment to Action to Indigenous Peoples**

CNPBC is one of 11 BC health regulatory colleges collaborating on a joint statement of apology to Indigenous people resulting from last year's [In Plain Sight report](#). Evidence of the widespread discrimination, racism, and abuse that Indigenous peoples regularly experience when seeking healthcare services was acknowledged and detailed in this report, released in November of last year. Given that the colleges involved oversee the

professional practice of more than 21,000 health professionals in BC, this is an important first step.

On July 27, 2021, registrars of each collaborating college gathered for the signing of the *Joint Statement of Apology and Commitment to Action* ([embed link](#)) on Spanish Banks, the unceded ancestral territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples. The statement is to be shared with the Ministry of Health (Associate Deputy Minister for Indigenous Health), the team behind the In Plain Sight report, registrants of the 11 colleges, media, and the public.

Please read the statement in full; a short summary is provided here:

- As leaders of health regulatory colleges in BC we apologize to Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit who have experienced and suffered from racism while engaging with our organizations or the health professionals we regulate.
- This communication benefits from collective learning of the past few months, is intentional, and is self-reflective on the systemic biases preventing Indigenous peoples from accessing and receiving safe health care services.
- This is the start of a new journey to restore relationships and enable collaborative work toward continued reconciliation and healing.
- The ceremony on Spanish Banks was informed by Indigenous culture: an Indigenous leader and knowledge carrier were present, the location features an anchor sculpture symbolizing the grounding of the signatories in this commitment, and a mountain with a human form in the distance was official witness to the ceremony.

Here are some of the commitments we are making as a College:

- Offering regular training to staff on cultural safety and humility.
- Increasing Indigenous representation on the Board, Committees and staff.
- Fostering a 'speak-up' culture within CNPBC.

This 60 sec. [video](#) records the signing and reflects the spirit of the ceremony.

As one of the 11 signatory colleges\*, CNPBC's goal is to restore relationships with



Indigenous people in BC, fully in keeping with our mandate of public safety.

\*College of Chiropractors of BC, College of Dental Hygienists of BC, College of Denturists of BC, College of Dietitians of BC, College of Naturopathic Physicians of BC, College of Occupational Therapists of BC, College of Opticians of BC, College of Optometrists of BC, College of Physical Therapists of BC, College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of BC, College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of BC.



Joe Gallagher (k'wunəməŋ), Qoqoq Consulting Ltd, opens the ceremony with a land acknowledgement and welcome.



Carina Herman, Registrar & CEO adds her signature to the Apology.

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## Have you always wanted to be on a Board Committee?

If you haven't experienced Board involvement, you should. It can be very fulfilling! Much of the Board's most important work is done by and through Committees focused on key areas of the College's mandate. Committees inform Board decision-making and make recommendations for Board consideration. They are made up of both registrant and public members, taking advantage of the special skills, knowledge, and even personal interests of each. It's a great way to learn how the College functions, understand its mandate, put your skills and experience to good use and meet colleagues. Terms are for two years with the possibility of reappointment.

These Committees are currently recruiting registrant members.

- ***Discipline Committee:*** deals with matters referred to it by the Inquiry Committee or by the Board as a whole. Meeting frequency varies according to the number of disciplinary hearings scheduled.



- ***Inquiry Committee***: investigates complaints and concerns regarding registrant conduct, competency, and/or ability to practice; decides on appropriate action. The Committee meets monthly—virtually at this time.
- ***Quality Assurance Committee***: establishes and maintains the quality assurance program promoting high practice standards, continuous learning, and professional development. It meets monthly—also virtually at this time.

Committee work is rewarding. If you think it might be for you, just email [registrar@cnpbc.bc.ca](mailto:registrar@cnpbc.bc.ca).



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## **WorkSafeBC will soon be accepting digital signatures**

As of September 2021, WorkSafeBC will accept digital signatures from injured workers to authorize the release of relevant medical records from their treatment providers.

Workers will have the option of entering a digital signature on their [Worker's Authorization for Release of Personal Information](#) form (Form 69W1) and then uploading the form directly to their claim file.

The organization doesn't anticipate this new service option will generate additional work for treatment providers or medical office assistants. It's designed to make it easier for workers to provide authorization to WorkSafeBC, reduce [administrative and mailing delays](#), and

enable the organization to request records from practitioners earlier. Treatment providers and WorkSafeBC will be able to expedite recommendations and referrals for appropriate treatment, helping restore injured workers to their life and work in a safe and timely manner.

BC's [Electronic Transactions Act](#) allows for digital signatures in place of hand written pen-to-paper signatures. WorkSafeBC will accept digital signatures drawn on a touch-screen tablet or with a mouse.

Please share this information with any of your office staff who receive WorkSafeBC's authorization forms for the release of information.

To learn more, refer to the [Question & Answer: Digital signatures](#) resource from WorkSafeBC.

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## Notes from the CEO/Registrar

Dear Registrants,

The last month has been a stressful time for many registrants, not to mention British Columbians generally. Some of you may have experienced the wildfires; others the COVID surge in the Interior. Some of you will have experienced both. We understand how difficult this must be and our thoughts are with you all. Please keep yourselves and your families safe.

And a final note, our new newsletter, "Enlighten", is how the College will be regularly communicating with you from here on in. We hope you enjoy it and find it useful.

Many thanks,  
Carina Herman



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