



Practice Standard: Use of Title

Applies to Naturopathic Physicians

The College of Complementary Health Professionals of BC was created on June 28, 2024 through the amalgamation of four health regulatory colleges:

- College of Chiropractors of BC
- College of Massage Therapists of BC
- College of Naturopathic Physicians of BC
- College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of BC

All current requirements for standards of clinical and ethical practice issued by the four colleges remain in place upon amalgamation.

This document was created by the College of Naturopathic Physicians of BC and will be updated to reflect the amalgamation.



Practice Standard

Use of Title

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.

Introduction

This standard sets out the requirements and restrictions that apply to use of titles by registrants.

This standard references the CNPBC Bylaws (the "Bylaws") and other practice standards created by the Board pursuant to the Bylaws.

Definitions

Credentials: a term for a variety of degrees, qualifications, and designations granted by agencies including professional associations, academic institutions, and educational bodies.

Reserved Title: a title the minister has prescribed for use exclusively by registrants as set out in the *Naturopathic Physicians Regulation*.

Specialization: in a BC regulated health profession, a specialization is defined and authorized in regulation and approved by the relevant regulatory body. No specializations have been approved for registrants of CNPBC.

Standards

1. The [Naturopathic Physicians Regulations](#) authorizes the following titles for use by registrants of CNPBC:
 - a. naturopath

- b. naturopathic physician
 - c. naturopathic doctor
 - d. physician
 - e. doctor
2. With respect to the above reserved titles:
- a. Registrants must ensure that when using the terms "doctor", "Dr.", or "physician" in marketing, those terms are used in conjunction with the term "naturopathic" or the initials "ND" to clarify which profession and college they belong to. "Marketing" is as defined by the *CNPBC Advertising Standard*.
 - i. Registrants must make reasonable efforts to ensure that their title and profession are clearly understood by the public.
 - ii. Registrants must make reasonable efforts to ensure that representation by a third party about the registrant conforms to this *CNPBC Use of Title Standard*.
 - b. When using a reserved title verbally, registrants must ensure that others are informed they are naturopathic doctors and that they are not mistaken or misidentified as belonging to another regulatory college.
 - c. Non-practising registrants must not
 - i. use the term "registered" or a reserved title for registrants except in conjunction with the term "non-practising" or
 - ii. use any term other than "registered" or "non-practicing" in conjunction with a reserved title for registrants or
 - iii. use the term "licenced" or "certified" in association with a description of their registration status, unless it is clear from the context that they are merely describing their former status as a full registrant.
 - d. Temporary registrants must not use the term "registered" or "licensed" or any title reserved for use by registrants except in conjunction with the term "temporary".
3. A student registrant may identify themselves as a "naturopathic medical student" registrant and must not identify themselves as a "naturopath", "naturopathic physician", "naturopathic doctor", "physician" or "doctor".
4. Registrants must not use a term, title or designation that could reasonably be interpreted as indicating a specialization in an area of practice of the profession.
5. Registrants must use their titles in ways that comply with:
- a. [The Health Professions Act](#) (HPA)
 - b. [Naturopathic Physicians Regulations](#)
 - c. [CNPBC Bylaws](#)
 - d. [CNPBC Standards of Practice](#)

6. Registrants must not use a term, title or designation that is restricted by other legislation.

Applying the Standards

- When using the term “doctor”, “Dr.” or “physician” in writing, NDs include the appropriate naturopathic credentials. For example:

✗ Dr. Semion Suraj

✓ Dr. Semion Suraj, ND

✓ Semion Suraj is a naturopathic physician.

- If an ND is non-practising or is a temporary registrant, the appropriate qualifying term follows their credentials. For example:

✗ Dr. Semion Suraj, ND

✓ Dr. Semion Suraj, ND (temporary registrant)

- NDs include credentials which refer to training in a specific area or area of special interest as part their biography but do **not** include them as part of their title. NDs don't use any credential or designation that could be interpreted as a specialization in their title. For example:

✗ Dr. Semion Suraj, ND, FABNO

✓ Dr. Semion Suraj, ND has been awarded the status of Fellow by the American Board of Naturopathic Oncology (FABNO).

✗ Dr. Semion Suraj, ND, Family Practice

✓ Dr. Semion Suraj, ND has a family-focused naturopathic practice.

References

- [Health Professions Act](#)
- [Naturopathic Physicians Regulations](#)
- [CNPBC Bylaws](#)
- [CNPBC Standards of Practice](#)
- [Practice Standard: Advertising and Communication with Public](#)

Appendix – tables of titles

This tables provides a quick reference of the reserved titles for registrants.

CNPBC Registrant Class	Approved Titles
Practising	Naturopathic Doctor Naturopathic Physician ND Examples: Dr. Anna Jones, ND Doctor Anna Jones, Naturopathic Physician
Non-practising	Naturopathic Doctor (non-practising) Naturopathic Physician (non-practising) ND (non-practising) Examples: Dr. Anna Jones, ND (non-practising) Doctor Anna Jones, Naturopathic Physician (non-practising)
Temporary	Naturopathic Doctor (temporary) Naturopathic Physician (temporary) ND (temporary) Examples: Dr. Anna Jones, ND (temporary) Doctor Anna Jones, Naturopathic Physician (temporary)
Student	Naturopathic Medical Student Example: Anna Jones, Naturopathic Medical Student.

Disclaimer

In the event of any inconsistency between this standard and any legislation that governs the practice of naturopathic doctors, the legislation shall govern.

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