



College of  
**COMPLEMENTARY HEALTH  
PROFESSIONALS OF BC**

# Practice Standard: Diagnostic Testing

## 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

### Diagnostic Testing

*Practice Standards set out requirements for specific aspects of a naturopathic doctors' practice. 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.*

Naturopathic doctors in British Columbia use a variety of diagnostic testing techniques.

#### **Primary diagnostic procedures:**

Naturopathic doctors may rely upon the following sources of information in order to make a diagnosis:

1. **Physical examination**

The naturopathic doctor investigates the body of a patient for signs of disease or illness. They sometimes use instruments including the stethoscope, specula, ophthalmoscope, otoscope, etc.

2. **Laboratory testing**

Conventional biochemical analysis of blood, saliva, stool, urine, hair, synovial fluid and other tissues for diagnosis of pathology, monitoring of care, and preventative screening. Examples of laboratory diagnosis include but are not limited to: complete blood cell count (CBC), serum chemistries, urinalysis, and Pap smears.

3. **Imaging and electro-diagnosis reports**

Reports regarding diagnostic ultrasounds, X-rays, endoscopic methods, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), CT scans and PET scans, electrocardiographic (ECG), electroencephalography (EEG), electromyography (EMG), and plethysmography.

#### **Non-diagnostic procedures for information-gathering only**

Non-diagnostic procedures include in-clinic ultrasound, applied kinesiology, biological impedance analysis, biological terrain analysis, cardiovision, computerized regulation thermography, darkfield microscopy, electro-dermal screening, and iridology. A diagnosis may

not be made as the sole result of a non-diagnostic procedure. Information-gathering procedures may only be used to supplement primary diagnostic procedures.

*Updated May 2016*

*Disclaimer*

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