



# Practice Standard: Supervision of Restricted and Non- Restricted Activities

## **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

### Supervision of Restricted and Non-Restricted Activities

*Practice Standards set out requirements related to specific aspects of 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.*

### Introduction

This standard sets out the requirements and restrictions for the supervision of restricted and non-restricted activities.

### Definitions

**Restricted Activity:** Restricted Activities are higher risk clinical activities that must only be performed by members of a regulated profession that has been granted specific legislative authority to carry out that restricted activity.

**Supervisee:** is any individual who is:

- a student registrant with CNPBC,
- a full registrant of CNPBC who is taking a CNPBC approved certification training course, or
- a full registrant of CNPBC who has been assigned supervised practice by a CNPBC committee or completing supervised practice to restore a CNPBC Certification.

**Supervised practice:** is when a registrant directly oversees the practice of the supervisee by authorizing activities and supervising patient care of the supervisee. This is distinct from practice observation (ex. preceptoring), where a student observes the practice of the registrant, and is not involved in patient treatment (see CNPBC [Preceptorship Policy](#)).

**Supervising registrant:** is a full registrant who provides specific and appropriate instructions to that person for the provision of the service.

## Standards

1. Supervising registrants are accountable and responsible for decisions associated with the supervision process, including acts and decisions made by the supervisee.
2. Supervising registrants must only supervise activities for which they are competent and qualified, including meeting all Practice Standards and CNPBC Certification requirements. See Applying the Standards.
3. Supervising registrants must only supervise individuals who meet the definition of supervisee outlined in this standard.
4. Supervisees do not act autonomously.
  - a. Supervisees must adhere to the recommendations of the supervising registrant.
  - b. Despite 4(a), the supervisee may decline to perform an activity if the instructions jeopardize patient safety or are beyond the confidence of the supervisee.
5. Supervising registrants must obtain patient written informed consent to having a supervisee participate in the provision of services prior to allowing a supervisee to engage in care. This consent must be retained in the clinical record.
6. Supervising registrants must follow this process:
  - a. Make a decision that it is safe to authorize the supervisee to conduct or to assist in conducting the activity, considering at a minimum:
    - i. the supervisee's level of experience,
    - ii. the patient's health condition, needs and consent,
    - iii. the activity to be performed, and
    - iv. the setting (i.e. educational course, supervised practice).
  - b. Supervise all patient care provided by the supervisee by:
    - i. reviewing the supervisee's assessments of patients' health, differential diagnoses and/or diagnosis,
    - ii. reviewing and discussing recommendations and treatments/interventions made or to be made,
    - iii. signing all prescriptions and diagnostic tests,
    - iv. being on site to consult and collaborate to protect the interests of the patient,
    - v. making direct contact with the patient at every visit, and signing all charts and recommendations during, immediately following, or as soon as possible after, a patient's visit while ensuring records are in accordance with the CNPBC [Standard on Health Care Records and Receipts](#).

7. Supervising registrants must ensure their insurance coverage includes supervision and that the supervisee has the required insurance coverage.
8. Student registrants may only use the title Naturopathic Medical Student in accordance with the [Practice Standard: Use of Title](#).


### Supervision of restricted activities

9. Supervising registrants supervising the performance of restricted activities as outlined in the [Naturopathic Physicians Regulation](#), must, in addition to the above:
  - a. be directly supervising the restricted activity by being in the room while the supervisee is administering the treatment which includes the restricted activity, monitoring both the patient interests and the supervisee performance and
  - b. be onsite and immediately available to assist the supervisee throughout the duration of the treatment which includes the restricted activity.

## Applying the Standards

- NDs are granted restricted activities but are not granted the ability to delegate. As such, NDs do not delegate the performance of restricted activities to any person. Delegation is a process by which a health care professional who has legislative authority to perform a restricted activity transfers that authority to an unauthorized person. Supervision, as outlined in this standard is distinct from delegation.
- NDs can supervise a supervisee for the purpose of allowing a supervisee to become qualified to perform a practice. NDs cannot supervise anyone outside the above definition of supervisee to perform restricted activities.

 Teaching prolotherapy to a physiotherapist, naturopathic assistant, acupuncturist.

 Teaching prolotherapy to a CNPBC full registrant, or member of another college granted the associated restricted activity.

- A supervising ND should be:
  - a full (practising) registrant of CNPBC who has been authorized to practise in a regulated province or state for at least five (5) consecutive years, and is not currently subject to limits and conditions on their registration,
  - certified in all relevant specified aspects of practice for at least (2) consecutive years, and

- is current in all required qualifications including, CPR for Health Care Professionals/Basic Life Support (BLS), and Naturopathic Advances Life Support (NALS) as appropriate.
  - committed to teaching the Arts, Sciences and Jurisdictional requirements of naturopathic medicine.
- Examples of when this Practice Standard would apply, include but are not limited to:
    - NDs supervising student registrants as part of an education program specified in the [CNPBC Bylaws Schedule A](#).
    - NDs offering Supervised Practice to student registrants as part of an approved externship from an education program specified in the CNPBC Bylaws Schedule A, where in student registrants obtain required insurance coverage.
    - NDs offering certification courses or continuing education relating to certification, to ND (full) registrants.
    - NDs supervising an ND (full) registrant who has been assigned supervised practice by a CNPBC committee or is completing supervised practice to restore a CNPBC Certification.
  - The purpose and goal of supervised practice is to educate, inform, and prepare naturopathic students and doctors to meet the needs of their patients and the demands of the profession by meeting registration requirements, by meeting certification requirements, or by meeting restoration of certification requirements. It is not to be used to bypass regulatory requirements.
  - No one may “practice under another naturopathic doctor’s license”. The correct term is supervised practice, and the above principles apply.
    - Graduates from naturopathic colleges who are awaiting licensure with the CNPBC are not permitted to practice naturopathic medicine until CNPBC Registrant status has been confirmed and licensure has been issued.
  - “ND residents” are not recognized as a separate class of registrant by CNPBC. Any ND practising naturopathic medicine as part of a [CNME residency](#), must be a full registrant with the CNPBC and meet all applicable legislation and Practice Standards.
  - NDs reviewing skills as part of a peer review is not considered supervised practice.

## References

- [Health Professions Act](#)
- [CNPBC Bylaws](#)
- [Naturopathic Physicians Regulation](#)
- [Preceptorship Policy](#)
- [Practice Standard: Informed Consent](#)

- [Standard of Practice: Health Care Records and Receipts](#)

*Disclaimer*

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