

Clinical Practice Standard

Naturopathic Medicine Allergy
Testing and Treatment





Principle	Outcome Statement
As a naturopathic medicine licensee, you must meet the following Principles within the Clinical Practice Standard: Naturopathic Medicine Allergy Testing and Treatment.	People receiving health services from a naturopathic medicine licensee expect that their health care practitioner will:
Principle 1: Naturopathic medicine licensees must have additional training and competence to conduct allergy testing and treatment.	Have the necessary training and skills to safely provide and monitor allergy testing and treatment.
Principle 2: Naturopathic medicine licensees must have emergency supplies within their practice environment to conduct allergy testing and treatment.	Have the necessary emergency medications and equipment to manage allergic reactions should they occur.



Definitions

additional training: refers to structured education with an objective assessment of knowledge and skills beyond entry-level competency that includes both theoretical and practical components including:

- theory and principles of the technique and/or approach
- assessment and diagnosis
- treatment
- proper handling, including storage and preparation, of substances when applicable
- risk, and management as applicable.

allergy testing and treatment: refers to the assessment and management of allergic conditions that can be safely provided by a naturopathic medicine licensee within their scope of practice. This includes conducting lower-risk allergy testing and treatment approaches that do not require the expertise, training, or practice setting of a specialty physician with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia (e.g. allergist or immunologist).

high-risk allergy testing and treatment: includes allergy testing and treatments which must be performed by an appropriately trained specialty physician with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia (e.g. allergist or immunologist) in settings equipped for advanced monitoring and emergency management and are therefore explicitly out of the scope of practice for naturopathic medicine licensees.

High-risk allergy testing and treatments include but are not limited to:

- intradermal testing
- oral food challenges (OFC) and/or immunotherapy (OIT)
- drug challenge testing and/or desensitization
- venom challenge testing and/or desensitization
- any exposure method for anaphylactic allergies

lower-risk allergy testing and treatment: includes allergy testing and treatments which can be safely provided by a naturopathic medicine licensee within their scope of practice.

Lower-risk allergy testing and treatments include skin prick testing, patch testing, and serum IgE testing for common environmental allergies and treatments such as pharmacological therapy (e.g. sublingual immunotherapy), allergen avoidance counselling, and other management methods within scope of practice.



Principle 1: Naturopathic medicine licensees must have additional training and competence to conduct allergy testing and treatment.

To meet this standard, naturopathic medicine licensees must:

- 1.1** Have additional training to perform allergy testing and treatment.
- 1.2** Not perform high-risk allergy testing and treatment.
- 1.3** Ensure patients are appropriately monitored during and after allergy testing and treatment.
- 1.4** Ensure patient safety following allergy testing and treatment by:
 - 1.4.1** discharging patients only when clinical stability has been determined; and
 - 1.4.2** providing patients with a safety plan that supports recognition and management of delayed allergic reactions requiring emergency and/or other medically appropriate interventions.
- 1.5** Document into the patient health care record:
 - 1.5.1** the type of allergy testing and treatment provided;
 - 1.5.2** the duration of monitoring and patient response to allergy testing and treatment; and
 - 1.5.3** observations and clinical rationale for discharge including safety plan for delayed allergic reactions.



Principle 2: Naturopathic medicine licensees must have emergency supplies within their practice environment to conduct allergy testing and treatment.

To meet this standard, naturopathic medicine licensees must:

- 2.1** Hold appropriate current life support certification to manage potentially life-threatening emergencies.
- 2.2** Have within the practice environment the appropriate emergency medical supplies, including but not limited to epinephrine, oxygen, diphenhydramine and salbutamol.