



Naturopathic Medicine: Clinical Practice Standards & Certifications

HPOA Webinar Series

Clinical Practice Standard: Naturopathic Medicine Allergy Testing and Treatment

FAQ

Q: Why was this Clinical Practice Standard developed?

The Clinical Practice Standard: Naturopathic Medicine Allergy Testing and Treatment was developed to meet the requirements of the [Health Professions and Occupations Act \(HPOA\)](#) under the [Complementary Health Professionals Regulation](#).

The regulation states:

Practice standards

18 The board must make bylaws establishing or adopting practice standards respecting the performance, by naturopaths, of the restricted activities described in the following items of the Restricted Activities Table:

- (a) items 46 to 49 [drugs];
- (b) items 65 and 66 [allergy testing and treatment].

Q: When did the Clinical Practice Standard come into effect?

The Clinical Practice Standard: Naturopathic Medicine Allergy Testing and Treatment came into effect on April 1, 2026.



Q: What training should I take to meet this Clinical Practice Standard?

The College does not prescribe or require specific courses and/or training pathways.

Licensees are expected to exercise their professional judgment, which includes ensuring they are adequately educated and have sufficient practical training to provide their clients with competent, ethical, and medically sound care.

The Clinical Practice Standard: Naturopathic Medicine Allergy Testing and Treatment, Principle 1.1 states licensees **must**:

1.1 Have **additional training** to perform allergy testing and/or treatments.

Per the Clinical Practice Standard: Naturopathic Medicine Allergy Testing and Treatment, “additional training” is defined as:

additional training: *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*
- *theory and principles of the technique and/or approach.*

Q: Are sublingual immunotherapy, low dose antigen therapy, or low dose immunotherapy still within the scope of practice?

Yes. Lower-risk allergy testing and treatment are within Scope of Practice for naturopathic medicine licensees. The Clinical Practice Standard: Naturopathic Medicine Allergy Testing and Treatment defines “lower risk allergy testing and treatment” as:

lower risk allergy testing and treatment: *includes skin prick testing, patch testing, and serum IgE testing for common environmental and food allergies and treatments such as symptom directed pharmacological therapy, allergen avoidance counselling, and other management methods within Scope of Practice.*



Sublingual immunotherapy, low dose antigen therapy and low dose immunotherapy are considered lower risk treatments; however, licensees are required to use their professional judgement to determine whether the treatment is appropriate for the patient.

Q: What are considered high-risk allergy testing and treatments?

High-risk allergy testing and treatments are *not in the scope of practice* for naturopathic medicine licensees.

The Clinical Practice Standard: Naturopathic Medicine Allergy Testing and Treatment defines high-risk allergy testing and treatment as:

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.*

Q: I have been practising lower risk allergy testing and treatments for many years. Do I need to complete additional training?

It is at the discretion of the naturopathic licensee to determine if they require additional training. When deciding whether additional training is required, licensees must consider their mandated responsibility and/or duty to maintain competence in their areas of practice by ensuring they have the appropriate knowledge, skills and clinical judgement to provide competent, safe care.