



FAQ

Clinical Practice Standard: Designing, Compounding and Dispensing Herbal Medicines and Natural Health Products

Introduction

The draft Clinical Practice Standard: Designing, Compounding and Dispensing Herbal Medicines and Natural Health Products sets out the *minimum* expectations CCHPBC licensees must meet when authorized to design, compound and dispense herbal medicines and natural health products. These expectations address higher-risk areas of professional scope of practice and support safe, accountable care.

Q: To which professions does the draft clinical practice standard apply?

A: The therapeutic use of herbal medicines and/or natural health products including their design, recommendation, compounding and/or dispensing fall under the scopes of practice of the following CCHPBC regulated professions:

- Traditional Chinese medicine doctors, practitioners and herbalists
- Naturopathic medicine
- Chiropractic

Q: Why has CCHPBC developed the draft Clinical Practice Standard: Designing, Compounding and Dispensing Herbal Medicines and Natural Health Products?

A: The College has developed this clinical practice standard in the interest of creating clear, enforceable expectations for how licensees must practise safely, competently, and ethically as it pertains to designing, compounding and dispensing herbal medicines and/or natural health products. This clinical practice standard supports consistency in care, provides guidance to licensees, and gives the public a benchmark for what they can reasonably expect from a regulated health professional.



Clinical practice standards are developed and maintained when required by legislation, or where they are determined to be necessary according to a risk-based framework that incorporates the principles of right-touch regulation.

Q: Why does the draft Clinical Practice Standard use the word “design” instead of “prescribe”?

A: Under the *Health Professions and Occupations Act* (HPOA), the term “prescribe” is reserved for drugs and wearable medical devices. To align with HPOA, the draft clinical practice standard uses the term “design” when referring to herbal medicines and natural health products. In practice, “design” has the same meaning as what many licensees have historically understood as “prescribe”.

Q: How would licensees be expected to apply the draft clinical practice standard in practice when scopes of practice related to herbal medicines and/or natural health products differ between professions?

A: To support licensee understanding, the draft clinical practice standard identifies which principles apply to each profession based on their respective authorized scopes of practice. Licensees would be expected to apply the principles relevant to their profession and provide care in accordance with the requirements set out in the clinical practice standard and within their authorized scope of practice.

Q: Where can more information regarding herbal medicine and how it is regulated by the Ministry of Health be found?

A: More information can be found in the Ministry of Health’s Q&A, which can be [found here](#).

The Ministry of Health authors and establishes health profession regulations, which set the scopes of practice and the limits and conditions for practice for all regulated health professionals.

As a regulatory college, it is CCHPBC’s responsibility to uphold the legislation and regulations that the Ministry creates, and subsequently establish bylaws, standards, and limits and conditions that guide and direct health professionals’ practice in support of the Ministry of Health’s regulations.