College of
COMPLEMENTARY HEALTH
PROFESSIONALS OF BC

Supporting Quality Practice

Orders: Naturopathic Medicine

Supporting Quality Practice documents are developed by CCHPBC Practice Advisors to provide additional information and considerations to support licensees in exercising their professional judgment when applying College Bylaws and Professional and Clinical Practice Standards in their day-to-day practice. These resources are intended to complement existing Guidance documents, FAQ's, and other practice support materials. They are **not** intended to serve as legal advice or to address individual practice-specific scenarios.

Licensees with questions about specific situations in their practice are encouraged to contact Practice Support via email practicesupport@cchpbc.ca.

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Application to Practice

Issuing an order is a clinical decision that carries ongoing professional obligations and responsibilities. Licensees should only issue orders in circumstances where they have the competence, authority, and resources to ensure that the activity is carried out safely and appropriately. In practice, licensees are expected to ensure that orders are:

- Clear, specific, and clinically appropriate
- Documented appropriately within the patient's health care record, including rationale and patient's consent
- Aligned with the patient's values, preferences, and goals of care
- Consistent with professional standards related to scope of practice, informed consent, communication, and person-centred care

Licensees who issue orders for restricted activities remain responsible and accountable for their decision to write an order and must do so in accordance with the Professional and Clinical Practice Standards. The regulated health care professional accepting the order is responsible for performing the activity ordered and documenting the activity performed in the patient's health care record, in accordance with their professional obligations.

Requirements to issue an order

An order as outlined in the *Regulated Health Practitioners Regulation (6)(1-4)* enables a licensee to direct another regulated health professional to perform a restricted activity only when specific requirements are met.

A licensee may issue an order when:

- They are authorized to perform the **restricted activity** independently; and
- The receiving licensee is authorized to perform the restricted activity if acting under an order.

Requirements for Order	
An order **must**:	An order **may:**
✓ Be issued by a licensee who has assessed, or is in the course of assessing, the patient with respect to whom the order is issued ✓ Clearly identify the patient ✓ Meet all applicable legal and regulatory requirements.	✓ Be communicated verbally, in writing, or electronically ✓ Be directed to a specific licensee or class of licensees (e.g., registered nurses) ✓ Include: o Timing or conditions for when the activity is to occur; and/or o Reference to a relevant protocol or guideline.

In applying these requirements, licensees **must ensure that:**

Check each box to confirm you have met the requirement.

1. They hold current licensure in BC and the restricted activity is in their scope. ☐



2. They possess the knowledge, skill, and any required additional education to perform the restricted activity. ☐



3. They have taken reasonable steps to ensure the regulated health care professional receiving the order has the knowledge, skill, ability, and judgement to perform the restricted activity and manage any possible intended and unintended consequences of the restricted activity. ☐



4. They have assessed, or are in the process of assessing, the patient and have communicated any diagnosis, where applicable, to the patient prior to writing the order. ☐



5. The order is clinically appropriate for that patient's circumstances. ☐



6. They have provided the patient with sufficient information regarding risks, benefits, and options. ☐



7. The patient has provided informed consent for the order in accordance with applicable standards. ☐



8. Appropriate resources, staffing, and safeguards are in place to support safe and ethical care. ☐



9. Their professional liability insurance includes coverage for ordering activities. ☐

