



The College of Naturopaths of Ontario

Standard of Practice:

Delegation



Introduction

The intent of this standard is to advise Members of the requirements with respect to delegation of controlled acts in their practice.

Definitions

Authorized act: means a whole or part of a controlled act authorized to the profession set out in subsection 4(1) of the Naturopathy Act, 2007.

Controlled Act: means a controlled act set out in subsection 27(2) of the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991.

Delegatee: a person to whom delegation is made.

Delegation: For the purposes of this Standard of Practice, delegation is a process whereby a member authorized to perform a controlled act procedure under the Naturopathy Act, 2007 confers that authority to someone - regulated or unregulated - who is not so authorized and not a member of this profession (e.g. a ND registered with the College of Naturopaths of Ontario cannot delegate an authorized act to another ND registered with the College of Naturopaths of Ontario). A delegation is not a referral.

Delegating or accepting delegation of controlled acts is subject to any applicable college guidelines, standards and regulations.

Delegator: a person making the delegation.

Exempted Act: means a whole or part of a controlled act that is not authorized to the profession but may be performed by Naturopathic Doctors via an exemption in the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991.

Referral: A process whereby a member makes a formal request for care to another regulated health care practitioner on behalf of the patient and is supported by documentation containing appropriate background information on the patient and outlining the reason for the referral.

1. Competency

The Member has the knowledge, skill and judgment to perform the authorized act to be delegated safely, ethically, and competently prior to delegating the act.

Performance Indicators

The Member:

- only delegates a controlled act authorized to the profession in subsection 4(1) of the Naturopathy Act, 2007;
- possesses the knowledge, skill and judgment to perform the authorized act procedure;
- only delegates to another individual the performance of an authorized act that the delegator is capable of performing;
- only delegates an authorized act that forms part of his/her practice;
- never delegates the authorized act of Communicating a Diagnosis; and
- never delegates an exempted act (acupuncture).

2. Responsibility and Accountability

The Member is responsible and accountable for the performance of a delegated authorized act.

The Member only delegates to individuals who have the knowledge, skill and judgment to perform the delegated act.

Delegation may be written or verbal, but appropriate documentation must be maintained.

Performance Indicators

The Member:

- assesses the risk of harm and the potential benefit of the delegated procedure;
- ensures that the delegation is appropriate, bearing in mind the best interest of the patient;
- is satisfied that sufficient safeguards and resources are available so that the procedure may be performed safely and ethically;
- is satisfied that the delegatee is a health care provider who has a professional relationship with the patient, a person in the patient's household or a person who routinely provides assistance or treatment to the patient and that the delegatee has the appropriate knowledge, skill and judgment to perform the authorized act;
- documents the date of the delegation and the conditions under which the delegation occurred;
- ensures that each delegation is for a specific procedure for a specific patient, to be delivered in a specific timeframe;
- ensures the competency of the delegatee at all times;
- ensures that the delegatee is appropriately covered by insurance to meet any liability which may arise from the performance of the delegated act;
- has put in place and documented a communication plan between himself or herself and the delegatee which deals with the appropriate management of any adverse events that may occur;
- is onsite or reasonably available to appropriately supervise the delegatee while the delegated act is being performed; and
- ensures that the delegation conforms with the delegatee's own College regulations, policies and guidelines.

3. Naturopathic Doctor – Patient Relationship

The Member delegates authorized acts procedures in the context of an existing Naturopathic Doctor-patient relationship.

Performance Indicators

The Member:

- conducts a complete assessment of the patient;
- informs the patient of the qualifications of the delegatee;
- obtains informed consent prior to the performance of the delegated act.

4. Receiving a Delegation

The Member accepts delegation of controlled acts from another regulated health professional provided that all the necessary conditions for delegation are met.

Performance Indicators

The Member ensures that the delegator has the authority and competence to perform and to delegate the controlled act.

The Member, before performing a delegated controlled act, ensures that:

- they have the knowledge, skill and judgment to perform the controlled act safely, competently and ethically;
- they have a Naturopathic Doctor-patient relationship with the patient;
- performing the controlled act is appropriate, bearing in mind the best interests of the patient;
- the controlled act can be performed safely and ethically and that there are sufficient safeguards and resources available; and
- any applicable conditions have been met.

The Member:

- ensures that receiving the delegation of the controlled act is appropriate considering:
 - the known risks and benefits of performing the procedure for the patient;
 - the predictable outcomes of performing the procedure;
 - the patient's wishes and consent;
 - the safeguards and resources available; and
 - any other relevant factors specific to the situation.
- maintains proper documentation of the process of delegation including:
 - the date and specific activities that were accepted by delegation;
 - the name, registration number, and discipline of the delegator;
 - the delegator's education and qualifications related to the delegated procedure;
 - any applicable conditions; and
 - the period of time that the delegation remains in force.

Related Standards & Guidelines

Acupuncture
Collecting Clinical Samples
Communicating a Diagnosis
Compounding
Consent
Dispensing
Infection Control
Inhalation
Injection
IV Infusion Therapy
Manipulation
Point of Care Testing
Prescribing
Record Keeping

Selling
Therapeutic Relationships and Professional Boundaries

Legislative Framework

[General Regulation](#)

[Naturopathy Act, 2007](#)

[Professional Misconduct Regulation](#)

[Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991](#)

Disclaimer

In the event of any inconsistency between this standard and any legislation that governs the practice of Naturopathic Doctors, the legislation shall govern.