

Enlighten

News from the CNPBC



March 15, 2023

Public Board Member Announcement

Benjamin Lewis Campbell, CPA, CA, has been appointed as a public member to the CNPBC Board for the term beginning February 9 of this year and extending through to December 31, 2024. Mr. Campbell is the Chief Financial Officer at Northern Development Initiative Trust, an independent, non-profit working to grow the economy of central and northern BC.

He will provide valuable expertise to our Board and we welcome him.

Reminder About Requisitioning Tests and Imaging

It has come to the College's attention that, from time to time, a naturopathic doctor (ND) may suggest that a patient undergo laboratory or other diagnostic testing or imaging that may only be requisitioned by another healthcare provider such as a medical doctor, nurse practitioner, or midwife. In such situations, an ND may mention to a patient that a test or tests *recommended* by the ND could be covered by MSP benefits if *requisitioned* by one of the above providers.

The College wishes to remind registrants of the [Guideline for Requisitioning Laboratory Tests and Interprofessional Practice](#). This guideline states that an ND wanting another healthcare provider to requisition a test for their patient should:

1. Explain to the patient that NDs and other healthcare providers must perform their own patient assessments and apply their own independent clinical judgment before requisitioning tests. Clinical judgment may vary between two professionals in the same healthcare profession, and even moreso between members of different healthcare professions. It would be unfair to the patient for an ND to raise the expectation that the patient's medical doctor will requisition tests recommended by a naturopathic doctor without question. It would also represent poor interprofessional practice.
2. Obtain the patient's consent to write to the patient's other healthcare provider explaining the ND's opinion as to the need for a test. The ND may wish to include a copy of the above guideline with the letter, indicate that they understand the healthcare provider will apply their own clinical judgment as to the need for the tests, and state that this has been explained to the patient.



Iron Administration Clarification

In the [January 2023 Newsletter](#), the College notified registrants that parenteral iron administration had been added to the scope for naturopathic doctors with the following limits and conditions:

- NDs must hold certification in Prescriptive Authority.
- NDs must hold certification in IV therapy to perform intravenous therapy.
- NDs must hold valid Basic Life Support and Naturopathic Advanced Life Support.
- NDs must take additional education* in IV and IM iron administration prior to administering IV or IM iron.

The College wishes to clarify that this expansion of scope **does not include the ability to delegate or write an order for IV iron administration.** It has come to the College's attention that some medical clinics or pharmacies have offered IV iron administration to patients based on the recommendations of NDs. These two scenarios will help to clarify the circumstances in which the administration of iron may or may not be permissible.

1. An ND refers a patient to a medical doctor (MD) for iron IVs. In this scenario, the MD is taking on the patient and meeting the regulatory requirements of their own profession for assessment, informed consent, etc. The ND is not prescribing the iron; they are simply referring to the MD, and the MD is prescribing the iron IV. **This is a referral and is permissible.**
2. An ND refers a patient to a clinic/pharmacy where a nurse or other health professional will be administering the iron based solely on the ND's assessment and prescription. **This is delegation or a written order and is prohibited for NDs.**

If you have questions, please reach out to our Regulatory Practice Consultant, Dr. Michelle Payne, ND, for further clarification.

** Additional education is structured education such as a workshop, course, or program of study designed so that registrants can attain the competencies required to carry out a specific activity as part of naturopathic practice. Additional education builds on the entry-level competencies of naturopathic doctors; identifies the competencies expected of learners on completion of the education; includes both theory and application to practice; and includes an objective, external evaluation of learners' competencies on completion of the education. The term 'additional education' does not refer to a course or program approved for a CNPBC certification.*



NALS and BLS Reminder

Registrants are reminded that they must maintain valid unexpired qualification in Basic Life Support (BLS), or Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation for Health Care Providers with Automatic External Defibrillation (CPR for HCP with AED). Registrants may take BLS or CPR for HCP with AED from any trainer approved by:

- Canadian Red Cross
- Heart and Stroke Foundation
- St. John Ambulance
- Canadian Ski Patrol
- Lifesaving Society.

Additionally, registrants holding any certification from CNPBC must maintain valid unexpired qualification in Naturopathic Advanced Life Support (NALS). All BLS, CPR for HCP with AED, and NALS training must be completed in person.

Any practicing registrant not holding valid unexpired qualification in BLS or CPR for HCP with AED may be referred to the Inquiry Committee.

Any practicing registrant holding any certification from CNPBC without a valid unexpired NALS qualification may also be referred to the Inquiry Committee.

Failure to maintain these qualifications may affect the ability of registrants to renew their registration and certifications.

More information about BLS, CPR for HCP, and NALS can be found on the CNPBC website here <https://cnpbc.bc.ca/for-registrants/resources/certification-requirements/>.

New Drugs Update

The College's Pharmacopoeia and Diagnostics Referral Committee (PDR) regularly reviews new prescription drugs as they become available on the Canadian market. The PDR also makes recommendations to the Board regarding which drugs should be included or excluded from the scope of practice for naturopathic doctors with certification in Prescriptive Authority.

The Board recently approved the PDR's recommendations for new drugs that came on the market up to the end of 2022. The *Scope of Practice for Naturopathic Physicians: Standards, Limits and Conditions for Prescribing, Dispensing and Compounding Drugs* (the Prescribing Standards) have been updated to reflect this.

The current version of the Prescribing Standards can be found here:

<https://cnpbc.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023-02-08-Standards-Limits-and-Conditions-for-Prescribing-Dispensing-and-Compounding-Drugs.pdf>.

Registrants are reminded to check the Prescribing Standards if they are ever unsure about whether a drug is within their scope of practice. Registrants with further questions in this regard are encouraged to contact the College directly.



Criminal Record Checks

The *Criminal Records Review Act* requires all CNPBC registrants, both practising and non-practising, to undergo a criminal record check (CRC) every five years. This requirement is intended to help protect children and vulnerable adults from physical, sexual, and financial abuse.

As set out in the *Health Professions Act*, failure to consent to a CRC will trigger an investigation by the CNPBC Inquiry Committee. The Committee will review all registrants who do not consent to a CRC and is authorized to take action which may include setting limits and conditions on the registrant's practice, or suspending or cancelling their registration.

How to authorize a Criminal Records Check

[Click here](#) for information on authorizing a CRC and for answers to frequently asked questions.

Criminal Record Clearance Letters

CRC Clearance Letters from the Criminal Records Review Program (CRRP) will be sent directly to the College. All Criminal Record Clearance Letters become the property of the College and will not be returned. CNPBC staff will update each registrant's Clearance Letter date and the due date of their next CRC in ROSS.

Checking the issue date of a previous CRC Clearance Letter and the deadline for the next CRC

Registrants can verify these dates by accessing the [Registrant Online Self-Service \(ROSS\)](#) portal and reviewing the 'Criminal Record' tab.

Change in Registration Information

Registrants are reminded that they must immediately notify the Registrar of any change in registration information such as change of name, address, office or home telephone numbers, email address, website address, or any other registration information previously provided to the College.

Submitting information changes for:

- **Place of practice**

Download the CNPBC Place of Practice Information form from the [Registrant Online Self-Service \(ROSS\)](#) portal, fill it in, and submit to registration@cnpbc.bc.ca

- **Home address**

Access [ROSS](#) and make the changes at any time, seven days a week.

- **Identity**

Contact CNPBC's Registration Services department for the process at registration@cnpbc.bc.ca

Unsubscribing From College Emails

CNPBC is legally required to deliver notices about naturopathic physician practice and professional regulation to its registrants. These notices are delivered via the CNPBC

newsletter “Enlighten” and are then posted on the CNPBC website.

Registrants are required to provide CNPBC with a valid email address for the purpose of receiving communications from CNPBC. This includes newsletters, email notices, and other communications related to our programs and services. This ensures registrants receive important regulatory information and, ultimately, helps maintain public trust in naturopathic physicians.

Requests from registrants to unsubscribe to CNPBC emails will be declined.



A Note From the Registrar

It has now been three years since the WHO made the assessment that COVID-19 could be characterized as a pandemic. Since then, many things have changed for all of us, and some things will be forever changed.

How we meet is undoubtedly one of those things that changed. Virtual meetings have become the norm and have even made some meetings more productive. People are no

longer required to travel great distances to attend AGMs or other events, a great time saver and stress minimizer.

On that note, our AGM will be held in the first week of May and will once again be virtual. More information will follow. I look forward to seeing you there.

There is some vital practice-related and other information in this newsletter and I encourage you to take the time to review it. As well, watch for information later this month regarding the upcoming election.

Here's to longer days and warmer weather.

Stay well.

Carina Herman

We acknowledge with respect that the land on which we gather is the unceded and traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples - s̓k̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh (Squamish), sel̓íl̓w̓it̓ul̓h (Tseil-Waututh), and x̓w̓m̓əθk̓w̓əy̓əm (Musqueam) nations whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.



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