

## Scope of Practice Standards

The **Scope of Practice Standards** are based on the activities that NDs can carry out and define what needs to be considered prior to carrying out these activities.

1. Naturopathic Doctors are accountable and responsible when they make a decision that the patient's condition would benefit from an activity, and act within their scope of practice to perform the activity.
2. Naturopathic Doctors ensure that the activity they will perform is:
  - a. Within the scope of practice for naturopathic doctors as set out in the *Naturopathic Physicians Regulation*;
  - b. In the best interest of their patient's health;
  - c. Consistent with CNPBC's standards of practice including standards, limits, and conditions;
  - d. Within the naturopathic doctor's individual competence.
3. Naturopathic Doctors ensure they have the competence to:
  - a. Make decisions about whether the patient would benefit from the activity, having considered:
    - i. the known risks and benefits to the patient;
    - ii. the predictability of outcomes of performing the activity;
    - iii. other relevant factors specific to the patient or situation.
  - b. Carry out the activity safely and ethically;
  - c. Safely manage the intended and unintended outcomes of performing the activity.
4. Naturopathic Doctors identify the effect of their own values, beliefs, and experiences in decision-making, recognize potential conflicts, and take action for the needs of the patient to be met.
5. Naturopathic Doctors use a combination of empirical evidence and professional judgement to support their decision-making and the activity to be performed.

6. Naturopathic Doctors follow a clinical decision-making process to:
  - a. Assess the patient's health status;
  - b. Make a diagnosis of a patient condition that can be prevented, improved, ameliorated, or resolved through naturopathic doctor activities;
  - c. Determine a plan of care;
  - d. Determine an activity to be performed;
  - e. Implement an activity to prevent, treat, or palliate an illness or injury and/or improve, ameliorate, or resolve a condition;
  - f. Manage the intended and unintended consequences of carrying out the activity
  - g. Manage and evaluate the outcomes of the activity.
7. Naturopathic Doctors communicate and collaborate with the patient (or their substitute decision-maker) about diagnoses, decisions, actions, and outcomes to support the patient to be an active participant in making informed decisions about the care to meet the patient's needs.
8. Naturopathic Doctors consult with, or refer patients to, other health care professionals when:
  - a. the needs of the patient exceed their scope of practice or individual competence; or
  - b. patient care would benefit from the expertise of other health care professionals.
9. Before performing an activity, naturopathic doctors consider available resources and human and system factors to safely perform the activity and to manage intended and unintended outcomes of the activity.