 The College of Naturopaths of Ontario	Policy Type Professional Practice	PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE POLICIES
	Title Vaccination	Policy No. PP04.1
		Page No. 1

To establish a policy for the members profession with respect to vaccinations.

Definitions **Vaccination** A Health Canada approved preparation that is administered for the purposes of stimulating antibody production in order to improve immunity against one or more specific infectious agents or diseases, such as

- a. An antigenic preparation of a typically inactivated or attenuated pathogenic agent or one of its components or products;
- b. A preparation of genetic material that is used by the cells of the body to produce an antigenic substance.

Policy **General** Members are not permitted to vaccinate (prescribe and administer a vaccination) to patients. Vaccines are drugs, as defined by the Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act. Although the profession is authorized to prescribe, dispense, compound and sell a drug or administer a substance by injection, this authorization is limited to the list of drugs and substances that are included in the Controlled Acts Regulation.

As a result, when asked by a patient about vaccinations, members shall inform the patient that vaccinations are outside of the scope of naturopathic practice and that the patient should consult with a health professional who has the ability within his/her scope of practice.

Referral The member shall refer the patient to a member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario or a member of the College of Nurses of Ontario who holds a certificate of registration as a registered nurse in the extended class or a member of another health profession College where vaccinations are within the scope of practice who may provide information about the vaccination as well as deliver the vaccination, should the patient elect to proceed in that manner.


Patient's Right to Choose The individual right of a patient to choose a treatment from among those options that are available to them, including the right to choose not to be treated, is a fundamental part of Ontario's health care system. Members will support the patient's right to choose whether or not to be vaccinated.

The member must also assure the patient that his/her decision to proceed or not proceed with a vaccination program will not have any impact (negative or positive) on their Naturopath Doctor-patient relationship.

It is recognized that although members inform their patients that vaccinations are outside of the scope of practice of the profession, the nature of their response to the patient may create an impression or influence the patient's choice. Therefore the member should:

1. Respond in a professional, accurate and balanced manner in the context of providing primary health care to the patient consistent with the naturopathic scope of practice;

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April 28, 2015	September 23, 2021

 The College of Naturopaths of Ontario	Policy Type Professional Practice	PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE POLICIES
	Title Vaccination	Policy No. PP04.1
		Page No. 2

2. Encourage the patient to be an active participant in his/her own health care, which allows the patient to make fully informed decisions.

Record Keeping

A member shall record in the patient record a notation of the discussion about vaccinations and the details of the referral, either generally to another regulated health practitioner or to a specific practitioner.

Where a patient informs a member of their vaccination status, this too will be recorded in the patient record.

No Alternatives

There are no known alternatives to vaccinations that accomplish that which a vaccination does and a member should offer no alternative therapy.

Nosodes

Under Health Canada rules, nosodes cannot be positioned as an alternative to a vaccine although a member can recommend nosodes as part of a broader treatment plan.

Implications of Failure to Comply

Members are reminded that they may be the subject of an inquiry, complaint or report concerning the provision of naturopathic services or discussions related to general health-related questions from patients.

The Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (ICRC), composed of elected (ND), appointed (public) and non-council (ND) committee members will review any inquiry, complaint or report to determine the member's compliance with all relevant standards of practice and this policy.

In exercising its discretion, the ICRC may consider if the discussions with the patient relating to general health-related questions were consistent with this policy, the regulations and standards of practice of the profession.

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