

ACUPUNCTURE

Intent

To advise Registrants who incorporate the controlled act of acupuncture in their naturopathic practice about their authority to perform the controlled act of acupuncture and of the requirements to perform the procedure safely, ethically and competently.

The Registrant has the authority to perform the controlled act of acupuncture through an exemption under the [Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991](#) and complies with all applicable limitations.

Definition

Acupuncture: The insertion and removal of solid needles into specific points in the body for therapeutic purposes.

Authority to perform acupuncture: A Registrant is authorized to perform acupuncture on tissue below the dermis, but not below the surface of the mucous membrane in accordance with this standard of practice and within the scope of practice of naturopathy, in accordance with section 8(2) of Ontario Regulation 107/96 as amended from time to time.

Delegation: A process whereby a Registrant 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).

Exempted Act: Means a whole or part of a controlled act that is not authorized to the profession in the Naturopathy Act, 2007 but may be performed by Naturopathic Doctors via an exemption in the [Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991](#).

STANDARD 1

The Registrant has acquired and maintains the knowledge, skill and judgment necessary to perform acupuncture safely, ethically, and competently.

A Registrant demonstrates the standard by:

- maintaining competency for performing the procedure by engaging in continuing education and/or incorporating acupuncture as a regular part of their clinical practice.

STANDARD 2

The Registrant minimizes the risk to the patient, self and others that are associated with the performance of acupuncture before, during and after the procedure.

A Registrant demonstrates the standard by:

- performing the procedure only within the context of a naturopathic doctor-patient relationship,
- completing a naturopathic assessment,
- assessing the patient to identify contraindications to acupuncture,
- obtaining and documenting informed consent for each treatment,
- considering the patient's comfort with the use of acupuncture needles,

- determining when a referral is needed,
- ensuring acupuncture is not delegated to another individual,
- performing acupuncture for therapeutic purposes,
- appropriately identifying the relevant anatomy and acupuncture points,
- applying appropriate acupuncture techniques,
- applying proper infection control procedures,
- using appropriate draping techniques to access treatment areas & maintain patient comfort,
- taking precautions to avoid injury to self and patients,
- periodically assessing the patient's response to treatment and adjusting the treatment plan as needed,
- documenting the procedure in the patient record in accordance with the *Standard of Practice: Record Keeping*, and
- implementing appropriate emergency procedures when the need arises.