

# MANIPULATION

## Intent

To advise Registrants who incorporate the controlled act of manipulation into their naturopathic practice of the requirements to perform the procedure safely, ethically and competently.

## Definitions

**Absolute Contraindication:** A condition or situation which makes manipulation completely inappropriate because it places the patient at undue risk.

**Manipulation:** Moving a joint beyond a person's usual physiological range of motion using a high velocity, low amplitude thrust.

**Relative Contraindication:** A condition or situation which may make manipulation inadvisable unless the intervention is modified.

## STANDARD 1

*The Registrant who performs manipulation within the context of their naturopathic practice has acquired and maintains the knowledge, skill and judgment necessary to perform the procedure safely, ethically, and competently.*

A Registrant demonstrates the standard by:

- maintaining competency for performing the procedure by engaging in continuing education and/or incorporating manipulation as a regular part of their clinical practice,
- ensuring that they are appropriately trained and competent in relevant emergency procedures and have appropriate risk management processes in place to manage any adverse reactions or complications resulting from the performance of the procedure,
- using only one or more of the following low amplitude thrust procedures when manipulating the cervical joints of the patient's spine:
  - Supine lateral flexion,
  - Supine rotary,
  - C2-C7 seated rotary.
- not performing manipulation if:
  - the patient has or may have one or more of the contraindications listed in the [General Regulation](#),
  - the Registrant is in doubt about the accuracy of the patient's health status or health history with respect to any of the contraindications listed in the [General Regulation](#).

## STANDARD 2

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

A Registrant demonstrates the standard by:

- only performing the procedure within the context of a naturopathic doctor-patient relationship,
- considering the patient's condition, the risks and benefits and any other relevant circumstances specific to the patient before performing manipulation,
- assessing the patient for absolute and relative contraindications:
  - erring on the side of patient safety when a patient presents with a condition where caution is warranted before performing manipulation,
  - using professional judgment to determine whether manipulation is appropriate and modifying the procedure as necessary when a patient presents with a relative contraindication,

- obtaining and documenting informed consent,
- performing manipulation for therapeutic purposes when it is clinically indicated, and
- ensuring documentation in the patient record in accordance with the *Standard of Practice: Record Keeping*.