



COLLEGE OF NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

PHYSICIANS RELATIONS QUARTERLY UPDATE

Spring 2009

1. Board Update

Over the past several months, the board and Registrar's office continued their work, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health to finalize the Naturopathic Physicians' Regulations and Bylaw Amendments which were passed on April 9, 2009. The Pharmacopoeia and Diagnostics Referral Committee has since met and work is in progress to develop a certification process as well as set appropriate standards, limits and conditions are in progress in order to monitor and regulate prescribing by registrants. Registrants will be required to take and upgrading course and examinations in order to obtain prescribing authority. The board will inform registrants as to when the upgrading course is expected to be available.

Please be reminded that registrants are not authorized to prescribe any scheduled substances until the College issues standards, limits and condition sand there has been a process outlined for each individual registrant to become certified as a prescribing ND and issued a prescribing number.

Provincial representatives met in Victoria this past January to continue work on the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) to establish an agreement that satisfies each jurisdiction when processing inter-provincial, transferring naturopathic physicians. The MRA will need to be in line with the recently passed Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) and may result in being used only as a guideline for the approval process of transferring physicians.

2. Examination Committee Update

As a consequence of the MRA/AIT national meetings, the Chair of the Examination Committee has been asked to compare the BC Board exams with those of Ontario as we move toward standardizing licensing exams for all regulated jurisdictions within Canada. This will address a number of problems presented by the new AIT.

The next BC Board Examination administration will be held in August, complete details are available online.

3. Inquiry Committee Update

The Inquiry Committee would like to remind registrants of the Powers and Duties of Inspectors while undergoing an investigation. Under section 28 (1) of the HPA, the inspector is empowered to inspect, without a court order "the records of the registrant relating to the registrant's practice and may copy those records". The committee would like to remind registrants to cooperate with inspectors as they carry out their duty. To avoid confusion, familiarize yourselves with the HPA and the College Bylaws as well as all other College policies that can be found online at www.cnpbc.bc.ca. Recent revisions to the Health Professions Act result in a number of changes to the Inquiry process and the Inquiry Committee will be working with the Registrar's Office during 2009 to implement required changes. A Health Professions Review Board has been established under the Act to consider appeals from all health regulatory bodies.

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4. Patient Relations Committee Update

The CNPBC Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics have been approved by the board and has been posted online. Please familiarize yourselves with these policies.

5. Patterns of Practice Committee Update

Please be reminded that Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) has just been mandated for all doctors who practice Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy, IV Therapies, Chelation, Prolotherapy or Ozone therapy. Doctors have until June 2010 to complete the training, and must maintain active certification every three years.

The College will no longer be making arrangements to bring providers of certification programs to Vancouver to host workshops. Those interested in becoming certified in chelation or other certifiable therapies must contact providers to inquire about workshop dates and locations. Upon successful completion of an approved workshop, registrants must submit or have the provider submit a completion certificate to the College in order to be granted certification.

6. Quality Assurance Committee Update

The Quality Assurance Committee is in the final stages of completing a series of professional review systems including a Practice Review, Peer Review and Self Review to evaluate the practise and maintain quality assurance of ND's in BC. These will be distributed to registrants and made available on line once finalized and approved by the board.

The Quality Assurance Committee continues to seek members to join its advisory group. Please contact Debbie at the CNPBC office if you are interested.

Enjoy a Healthy Spring and Summer!