

College of Naturopathic Physicians of British Columbia

Standards, Limits and Conditions for Scratch Allergy Testing and Desensitization

Scratch Allergy testing is a relatively safe technique for allergy diagnosis that has been used for many years and has recently been accepted into the scope of practice for naturopathic physicians in BC. However, it carries a small but significant risk of anaphylaxis. For this reason, the CNPBC Board has approved the following standards, limits and conditions, which are to be followed by all registrants:

1. Any ND using scratch testing in BC needs to have completed appropriate training in this technique such as an instructional seminar.
2. The ND needs to have the necessary emergency equipment in their office to deal with any potential anaphylactic reaction and be up to date with emergency medical procedures.
3. Allergy desensitization by injection is prohibited at this time, pending further review by the QAC.