



## Public Notification

**Dr. Brandon Spletzer, ND**

Date of action: March 22, 2016

Description of action taken:

The Inquiry Committee (“Committee”) of the College of Naturopathic Physicians of British Columbia (the “College”) has entered into a Consent Order with Dr. Brandon Spletzer (“the Registrant”), license # 708, under sections 33(6) and 36(1)(a), (b), (c) and (d) of the *Health Professions Act*, RSBC 1996, c 183 (the “Act”), on the following terms:

1. The Registrant has admitted and consented to be reprimanded for:
  - a. importing, distributing, recommending, or otherwise using drugs that are: (a) not approved for human use in Canada; and (b) outside of the scope of practice for naturopathic physicians.
  - b. making statements to a patient that could be interpreted as being willing to engage in disgraceful, dishonorable, or unprofessional conduct.
2. The Registrant has consented to a suspension of his practice of naturopathic medicine as defined by the *Naturopathic Physicians Regulation*, B.C. Reg. 282/2008, commencing the date of the Consent Order and ending on April 1, 2016 (10 days).
3. The Registrant has agreed to successfully complete an ethics course at his cost, such course to be approved in advance in writing by the Registrar of the College, and to be completed no later than July 31, 2016.
4. The Registrant has agreed to work with the College to enter into a mentoring relationship with another naturopathic physician.
5. The Registrant has undertaken not to repeat the conduct of importing, distributing, recommending, or otherwise use drugs that are: (a) not approved for human use in Canada; or (b) outside of the scope of practice for naturopathic physicians.
6. The Registrant has consented to cooperate with random spot audits by an inspector appointed by the Committee, at any time during the one-year period following the expiration of his suspension and return to practice, to review his clinical records for the purposes of ensuring that his practice remains consistent with the standards of practice for naturopathic doctors in British Columbia.

7. The Registrant has undertaken to refrain from consulting with or treating amateur or professional athletes competing at the national or international level for the purpose of athletic performance enhancement during the one-year period following the expiration of his suspension.
8. The Registrant has undertaken that his future practice of naturopathic medicine and professional conduct will be above reproach.

Reasons for action taken:

The Committee considered that the Registrant had admitted to recommending, ordering and providing a patient with, at the patient's request:

- (a) two peptides classified as "unapproved" drugs that have not been authorized for sale in Canada; and
- (b) a third peptide which is approved for sale in Canada, but is excluded from the scope of practice of naturopathic physicians pursuant to the College's *Standards, Limits and Conditions for Prescribing, Dispensing and Compounding Drugs*.

The Committee also considered certain remarks made by the Registrant to a patient. Although the Committee recognized the Registrant's statement that he felt pressured by the patient into making these statements, it was concerned that these statements could be interpreted as a willingness by the Registrant to engage in disgraceful, dishonorable, or unprofessional conduct.

The Committee determined that this would be an appropriate case to seek a consent order under s. 36 of the Act with comprehensive terms to address the Registrant's failure to meet the standards of the practice of the profession because:

1. the Registrant had admitted to and expressed an understanding of the seriousness of the conduct at issue;
2. the Registrant was willing to take remedial action, including mentorship and an ethics course, to ensure that the conduct would not be repeated; and
3. adequate steps could be taken to monitor the Registrant's clinical practice following his return to practice.

The Committee determined, and the Registrant agreed, that the appropriate action would be a consent order pursuant to s. 36(1)(a), (b), (c) and (d) of the Act which would enable the College to monitor the Registrant's practice to protect the public safety, while at the same time, requiring the Registrant to undertake further remedial steps to improve his standards of practice.