

## Self-Governance Guidelines for Naturopathic Organizations

Goal of regulation is to protect the public by ensuring safe naturopathic practice through the development of guidelines. Government established the regulation of health-care professionals, but in its absence, it becomes the responsibility of the professional naturopathic association(s) to demonstrate their desire for public protection by developing standards for self-governance.

A self-governance committee often includes both professional and public members - i.e. from other professions (marketing, lawyers). The areas of practice that generally fall under self-regulation include:

- Advertising Policy
  - Provide nomenclature guidelines which clarifies what credentials are allowed based on specific educational standards and current government regulation for health care in the region.
  - Ensure that naturopathic practitioners are respectful of designations and that they use only those that are recognized based on education and any training certification. WNF recommendation is dual designations (or more), not the combining of recognized designations (i.e., Medical naturopath, Mechanical naturopath, etc.)
  - Approve nomenclature, services and promises promoted on website and social media. Outlines what is not allowed. Such as the, ability to use the term medical, doctor, specialist or the ability to state that you treat specific diseases such as cancer or serious mental health conditions.
- Continuing Education
  - Set the continuing education (CE) requirements for your members. CE indicates a commitment to ongoing education and the desire to ensure that each naturopathic practitioner's skillset remain current.
- Standards of Practice
  - Provide guidelines for treatments, especially if high risk. Examples may include: Acupuncture, Naturopathic manipulation, colonics, etc.

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- Ethics Policy
  - Have a clear ethics policy that outlines the steps that the professional association will follow if there are concerns raised by the profession or if a patient is harmed, in any way as a result of their naturopathic treatment.
- Discipline Policy
  - Have a process in place that the professional association will implement if they need to discipline a member for not complying with the guidelines set out in their self-regulation guide.
- Record Keeping
  - Standards on record keeping, detailing the information that is required.
- Conflict of Interest
  - Guidelines to prevent conflict of interest. A conflict of interest may exist with a family member, an employee, a supplier of natural health products, etc.
- Confidentiality
  - Guidelines to ensure patient confidentiality and to security of patient records and files.
- Infection Control
  - Guidelines around ensuring that the practice of naturopathy includes standards of infection control, clean-field, and patient safety.

The WNF website contains sample policies for many of the areas lists above at

<http://worldnaturopathicfederation.org/welcome/>

Date Approved: April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018