

WNF Naturopathic Clinical Care (NCC) Working Group Terms of Reference

As of April 2026

Rationale

As a professional international association, the World Naturopathic Federation (WNF) is engaged in a diverse range of activities. All activities have an overarching goal to enhance and promote the global naturopathic profession and to support internal professional development.

WNF Working Groups are formed to support specific WNF projects that advance the global naturopathic profession. The Naturopathic clinical care (NCC) working group will create an instruction manual for naturopathic clinical care guidelines that focus on assessment and re-assessment and approaches to diagnosis and monitoring, not on treatment. The aim is to establish a research-based instruction manual that stays true to the principles and theories that guide naturopathic practice and that are applicable for naturopathic doctors and naturopaths globally.

Membership

- Number of members: minimum nine (9) and maximum fifteen (15) members
- At least four (4) world regions represented
- At least one (1) and a maximum of three (3) members from the WNF Executive (one to be WG Lead).
- At least four (4) and a maximum of six (6) members representing full members.
- At least four (4) and a maximum of six (6) members representing educational members.
- At least one (1) and a maximum of (3) researchers to guide the WG process.
- The WNF Chief Executive Officer.
- Any conflicts of interest must be declared, and those individuals may be asked to leave the working group.

Period of Office

Appointed members shall normally serve on the Working Group for the duration of the project. A WNF Working Group project may span months or a few years.

Quorum

The NCC Working Group meeting is considered to be at quorum based on attendance of six members, including one researcher plus the WNF WG Lead.

Goals

The NCC Working Group shall be directly responsible to the WNF Research Committee and will have the following functions:

- To create an instruction manual for Naturopathic Clinical Care Guidelines, based on defined Guiding Principles.

- To engage a diverse range of experts in the global naturopathic community through a Delphi methodology ensuring strong research standards and guidelines and representation from naturopaths and naturopathic doctors.
- To create an instruction manual that outlines the structure and process that will be guide future NCC Guidelines for specific conditions.
- To keep the greater naturopathic community abreast of the progress of the project to ensure awareness and acceptance of the NCC instruction manual and future NCC Guidelines.

Meeting Schedule

The NCC Working Group shall meet four (4) times a year, normally before meetings of the WNF Research Committee. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed to enable the Working Group to discharge its duties.

Meeting Procedures

For the purpose of this Working Group, “meeting” shall include a meeting conducted face-to-face, by telephone (teleconference) or by audio visual means. The minutes of the meeting will be recorded and shared with the members within a week of the meeting. Observers may attend meetings based on the approval of the WG Lead.

Review and Reference

Terms of Reference and the functioning of the NCC Working Group will be subject to review at least every year by the Board to ensure that it is operating effectively, fulfilling its functions and reviewed for continuing relevance. Each year the NCC Working Group will undertake a self-evaluation of performance. Areas requiring further attention in the following year will be highlighted to the Board.