

THE EXAMINING BOARD OF NATURAL MEDICINE PRACTITIONERS

DNM[®] STANDARDS, REGISTRATION CRITERIA AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE



CANADIAN REGISTRY FOR
DNM[®], RAP[®], RNP[®], RNMP[®], RLMP[®]

RECOGNITION, REGISTRATION &
ACCREDITATION IN NATURAL MEDICINE

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DNM[®] Scope of Practice

DNM[®]'s (Doctorate of Natural Medicine[®]) are a multidisciplinary group of natural healthcare professionals including Traditional Naturopaths, Homeopaths, Osteopaths, Dentists, Holistic Medical Doctors, Chiropractors, Orthomolecular Medical Doctors and Eastern Medicine doctors, such as TCM and Ayurveda Practitioners, amongst others dedicated to providing basic and natural healthcare. The EBNMP would like **DNM[®]** to become a household name, and is dedicated to restoring the art and science of natural medicine to its rightful place in healthcare.

The practice of Natural Medicine is an art and science involving the application of natural therapeutic agents and healing methods. It is therefore based on medicines and therapy which are in harmony with natural conditions of man and his environment. Natural therapeutic agents are material products composed of organic or inorganic constituents in native form, or they are in the form of Galenic preparations. These procedures make use of material and energetic agents which are harmoniously oriented to processes in nature. Such agents and therapeutic procedures employed as part of Natural Medicine can be applied for diagnostic, prophylactic, or curative purposes.

Natural medicine Physicians are trained in the basic medical sciences as well as in traditional medicine and tailor these treatments to the needs of the individual in a way that acknowledges the patient as a participant in the healing process.

DNM[®]'s perform physical examinations; make nutritional and dietary assessments, metabolic analyses, and allergy tests. They may order diagnostic tests and other procedures. They are primary care physicians; clinically trained in a wide variety of natural therapeutic modalities. The practice of Natural Medicine is the promotion of health, the assessment of emotional, mental and physical state and the resultant therapeutic techniques to improve emotional and adaptive function.

Who are DNM[®]'s

Practitioners of Natural Medicine who have met the standards in Natural Medicine education and the delivery of Natural Medicine Health care as established by the Examining Board of Natural Medicine Practitioners, according to the World Health Organization standards.

A DNM[®] is one who practices (teaches) a system of medicine in which only natural substances and techniques are used, including but not limited to nutritional and dietary therapeutics, phytotherapy (botanical/herbal remedies), electrotherapy, as a natural environmental force, Acupuncture (specialized registration required), Manual Therapy (massage, manipulation etc), remedial exercises, mineral therapy and biochemical therapy (the use of natural minerals and cell salts), hydrotherapies in all forms and homeopathy (a dynamic use of mineral and plant extracts).

Scope of Practice

- The assessment of emotional, mental and physical state and the resultant therapeutic techniques to improve emotional and adaptive function.
- Clinical Nutrition - the use of specific diets and nutritional supplements to prevent disease or re-establish the body chemistry.
- Botanical Medicine - use for their balancing and nutritional value.
- Homeopathic Medicine - Micro-dose of natural substances aim at stimulating the self healing response without side effects.
- Physical Medicine - therapeutic manipulation of soft and hard tissues, exercises, hydrotherapy, electrotherapy, ultrasound and heat and cold therapy.
- Oriental Medicine - This system of Medicine is not traditionally a western Natural Medicine healing system. Natural Medicine Doctors who engage in Acupuncture or any technique that involve puncture of the skin must have proof of a license.

- Ayurveda and Indian Systems of Healing - a wholistic system of medicine that uses a constitutional model to provide guidance regarding dietary and lifestyle management.
- Lifestyle Counseling and Stress Management - Natural Medicine Doctors are especially trained to offer coaching and education to the client on nutritional balancing, stress management, hypnotherapy, biofeedback as well as environmental factors that affect their health.
- Emergency Medicine - Natural Medicine Doctors must be competent in basic emergency / first aid.

Educational Requirements for DNM[®]'s:

The early "Nature Doctors" as they were known, learned through observations and apprenticeship. Some had an allopathic medical education but instead established themselves as "Nature Doctors" by using only natural remedies and techniques. Others were educated in osteopathy and chiropractic with addition of intense independent study in Natural Medicine.

The educational standards recommended by the founding fathers of Natural Medicine was that Natural Medicine Doctors should be taught the necessary portions of Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry along with physiotherapy, Nutritional and diet therapy, herbal therapy, mechanical therapy and patient education. EBNMP adapts the educational guidelines as recommended by the founding fathers of Natural Medicine.

Category I

Graduate from a Traditional program in Natural Medicine with 4400 hours of study:

- Pre-requisite to study Natural Medicine is a minimum of 3 years undergraduate University courses to include the following health sciences:
 - Anatomy
 - Physiology
 - Biochemistry
 - Public Health
- Followed by 4 years "Core" Natural Medicine courses:
 - Clinical Internship/Mentorship
 - Natural Medicine Modalities

The teachers instructing the above courses must have a Doctoral level of education and at least five years of experience and formal training as a Natural Medicine Doctor.

Category II

Foreign-trained Natural Medicine Doctors whose past training curriculum equals 4400 hours of study or whose combined training and years of experience amounts to 4400 hours.

Doctors in this category include Naturopaths, Homeopaths, Eastern Medicine Doctors (Ayurveda, Chinese).

The potential registrant is required to submit proof of education and must pass a challenge examination to be registered.

Category III

Western or Foreign trained Doctors: Chiropractors, Medical Doctors, Dentist, Osteopaths, Orthomolecular Medical Doctors, Dental Medicine Doctors, etc. who have been practicing Integrative / Natural Medicine and have accumulated at least 1000 hours of training and experience in at least two areas of Natural Medicine. The potential registrant is required to submit proof of education and must pass a challenge examination to be registered.

DNM[®]s who are Doctors of other regulated health care professions must show proof of licensed to practice as such.

In a world with so many different techniques, modalities and practices in Natural Medicine, the question often comes up about what a Doctorate of Natural Medicine[®] is exactly and what they practice.

How do we define our philosophy, ethics and scope of practice and what are the goals of natural healing?

Since the late 1980s, there has been a phenomenal growth in natural medicine in North America, more than in any other area of health care. Exhaustive research carried out by the World Health Organization (WHO) revealed that only the United States and Canada have official registration and accreditation for Naturopaths and Natural Medicine Doctors, with the United Kingdom only recently beginning a registry.

The overwhelming lack of recognition and the relatively low numbers of qualified doctors, therapists and technicians practicing Natural Medicine worldwide leaves the worlds' poverty-stricken population without Natural healthcare or simply to rely on allopathic doctors, who use expensive drugs and diagnostics. The few DNM[®]s who practice some form of natural medicine or the individuals who practice indigenous medicine, lack a confident public image.

The Examining Board of Natural Medicine Practitioners (EBNMP) was established in 1998 as per World Health Organization-Alma Ata 1962 (WHO International Syllabus 1974).

The Examining Board of Natural Medicine Practitioners strongly adheres to the principle that DNM[®]s are not "Allopathic Medical Doctors", but they should be knowledgeable in recognizing conditions that are beyond their skills and competence to know that certain clients are in need of "Allopathic Medical Services" and must refer such client to an "Allopathic Medical Doctor" or other appropriate healthcare practitioner.

- DNM[®]s are not "Holistic Practitioners"
- DNM[®]s are not "Alternative Practitioners"
- DNM[®]s are not "Complementary Health Practitioners"
- DNM[®] is not synonymous with any other nebulous names that other groups try to define us by
 - DNM[®]s are Orthodox Practitioners
 - DNM[®] system is practiced for over 5000 years
 - DNM[®] has been an established profession in North America for over 200 years
 - DNM[®] was re-defined and re-established in Canada since 1989