



SP-ND004
Standard of Practice: Ultrasound Use In Office
Approved Date: effective 20260527
Amended: n/a
Next Review Date: 2029

Note to Readers: In the event of any inconsistency between this document and the legislation that governs chiropractic and naturopathic practice in Nova Scotia, the legislation prevails.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Nova Scotia Chiropractic and Naturopathic Regulator (NSCNR) is the regulatory authority for the practice of chiropractic and naturopathy in the Province of Nova Scotia.

This Standard of Practice establishes the minimum requirements for ND Registrants who use ultrasound in a clinical setting for procedural guidance (e.g., to assist with localization for injections or related in-office procedures).

For clarity, ultrasound use under this Standard is **non-diagnostic** and must not be used to diagnose, rule out, or screen for pathology.

2. APPLICATION AND ADMINISTRATION

This Standard of Practice shall apply to all naturopathic doctors registered and holding an active naturopath license with the NSCNR (the “**ND Registrant**” or collectively the “**ND Registrants**”).

The administration and application of this Standard of Practice shall be the responsibility of the Registrar of the NSCNR. Should the NSCNR become aware of any alleged breach or noncompliance with this Standard of Practice, it may take any action it considers appropriate, including but not limited to:

- a. contacting a Registrant to request the immediate remedy of any suspected breach or non-compliance;
- b. filing a formal complaint under the *Regulated Health Professions Act* regarding the suspected breach or non-compliance as professional misconduct; and/or
- c. immediate suspension or revocation of Reserved Practice Permit.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Standard are to uphold public interest and safety by:

- a) defining the limited, procedural use of ultrasound in naturopathic practice;
- b) ensuring ultrasound is used only by competent Registrants and within scope of practice;



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c) establishing minimum requirements for equipment compliance, maintenance, and IFU adherence; and

d) clarifying documentation requirements and prohibitions against diagnostic use.

4. DEFINITIONS

The following terms have the following meanings when used in this Standard of Practice:

Diagnostic Ultrasound

The use of ultrasound to identify, assess, diagnose, rule out, or screen for pathology, including issuing diagnostic impressions or reports.

Instructions for Use (IFU)

The manufacturer-provided instructions that specify intended use, operating conditions, cleaning/disinfection, maintenance, limitations, and safe use of the ultrasound device and accessories.

Owner

The Registrant or clinic entity that owns, leases, or is otherwise responsible for the ultrasound device used in the clinic setting.

Procedural Ultrasound Guidance

The use of ultrasound imaging in real time to assist with anatomical localization to support the safe performance of an in-office procedure (e.g., needle guidance or confirmation of target location), without diagnostic interpretation.

Professional Misconduct

Includes conduct or acts relevant to the practice of a regulated health profession that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded as disgraceful, dishonourable, or unprofessional, including failure to maintain the Standards of Practice, as defined under the Regulated Health Professions Act.

5. STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

A. Permitted Use

a) A Registrant may use ultrasound only for procedural ultrasound guidance in support of an in-office procedure otherwise within the Registrant's scope and authorization.

b) A Registrant must not:



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- i. use ultrasound for diagnostic purposes;
- ii. represent ultrasound findings as diagnostic; or
- iii. generate or provide diagnostic reports.

c) Where diagnostic assessment is required or suspected, the Registrant must refer the patient to an appropriate diagnostic imaging provider.

B. Device Requirements

All ND Registrants using ultrasound in office must:

- a) use only ultrasound devices and accessories that are Health Canada approved/authorized for sale in Canada, where applicable.
- b) use the ultrasound device only for the manufacturer-intended purpose and in accordance with the IFU, including cleaning/disinfection, probe use, storage, and operating parameters.
- c) ensure that the ultrasound device is maintained and serviced in accordance with manufacturer requirements and any applicable safety standards.
- d) maintain records of maintenance/service and any corrective actions taken when equipment does not function as intended.
- e) must make available during any quality assurance review, inspection, or audit, the equipment record, including IFU/cleaning instructions, maintenance/service records, and corrective actions.

C. Training and Competence

- a) A Registrant who uses ultrasound must have the knowledge, training, skill, and judgment to
 - i. operate the device safely and correctly (including IFU compliance);
 - ii. obtain adequate images for procedural guidance;
 - iii. use ultrasound findings only for procedural localization (not diagnostic interpretation); and
 - iv. recognize limitations and when to stop and refer for diagnostic imaging.
- b) A Registrant must maintain evidence of training and competence and provide such evidence on request by the NSCNR.



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D. General Standards

- a) A Registrant must comply with applicable infection prevention and control requirements, including probe cleaning/disinfection consistent with the IFU and appropriate use of barriers as required for the procedure performed.
- b) A Registrant must document each use of ultrasound for procedural guidance in the patient record. Documentation must include:
 - i. the procedural purpose of ultrasound use (e.g., procedural guidance/localization);
 - ii. the anatomical region;
 - iii. the procedure performed (e.g., injection type/route and target site);
 - iv. a statement confirming ultrasound was used for procedural guidance only and not for diagnostic interpretation;
 - v. relevant intra-procedural events or immediate complications (if any); and
 - vi. the follow-up plan.

6. EXEMPTIONS

There are no exemptions to this standard of practice.

7. RESTRICTIONS

Ultrasound use under this Standard does not authorize a Registrant to:

- a. perform or represent ultrasound as diagnostic ultrasound;
- b. issue diagnostic reports or interpretations;
- c. use ultrasound equipment that is not Health Canada approved/authorized for sale in Canada where applicable;
- d. use ultrasound equipment inconsistently with manufacturer IFU; or
- e. use ultrasound beyond the Registrant's training, competence, and authorized scope of practice.

8. LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

[Regulated Health Professions Act \(2023\)](#)

[Regulated Health Professions General Regulations](#)

Regulations Respecting Chiropractic and Naturopathy

Nova Scotia Chiropractic and Naturopathic Regulator Bylaws

All additional Health Canada regulations governing drug and device approval.

8. ADDITIONAL RELEVANT STANDARDS OF PRACTICE



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Registrants are advised that all NSCNR Standards of Practice apply, including but not limited to, specific application of:

- Patient Record Management
- Emergency First Aid
- Emergency Preparedness
- Infectious Disease Prevention and Control
- In-Office Compounding
- In-Office Use Dispensing
- Reserved Practice Permit – Injection Therapies
- Reserved Practice Permit - IV Therapy
- Reserved Practice Permit – Ozone and Oxidative Therapies