

SP-NDRPP-SMT
Standard of Practice: Reserved Practice Permit - ND Manipulation
Approved Date: effective May 27, 2026
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.

The NSCNR serves and protects the public interest to advance ethical and competent chiropractic and naturopathic care in Nova Scotia.

Although Manipulation is considered an entry-to-practice competency for ND Registrants, it is a Reserved Practice service permitted only by ND Registrants who hold a current Reserved Practice Permit – ND Manipulation.

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. 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 ND 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; and

3. OBJECTIVES

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

- a) ensuring Manipulation techniques, including spinal Manipulation, are performed only by competent and authorized ND Registrants;
- b) providing clear requirements for continued competency training, authorization, and performance of ND Manipulations;

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- c) supporting safe, ethical, and evidence-informed care.

4. DEFINITIONS

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

Reserved Practice Permit means a permit issued by the NSCNR authorizing a Registrant to perform specified restricted activities upon successful completion of NSCNR-approved training and competency requirements. Reserved Practice Permits must be applied for and renewed annually in accordance with the requirements set out in the applicable Standard of Practice.

Manipulation means the application of a controlled force to a joint, including a spinal segment, with the intent to restore motion, reduce pain, or improve function. This Standard of Practice applies to high-velocity, low-amplitude (HVLA) Manipulation and other Manipulation techniques that involve joint cavitation or comparable biomechanical force, including spinal manipulative therapies.

Professional Misconduct has the same meaning as set out in the *Regulated Health Professions Act* and includes failing to maintain the standards of practice.

Reserved Practice has the same meaning as set out in the *Chiropractic and Naturopathic Regulations* and means an activity, procedure or service within the scope of practice of naturopathy that:

- a. involves sufficient risk to the public, as determined by the Board;
- b. the Board requires licensed person to meet additional education, additional training or other requirements beyond an entry to practice level to engage in, and;
- c. a licensed person may engage in only with the approval of the registrar and may require a specific permit.

5. STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

A. Permit Eligibility

ND Registrants may apply for a Reserved Practice Permit: ND Manipulation only where they:

- a) for ND license holders who apply for an Advanced Practice Permit more than 3 years following their entry-to-practice examination, complete specific additional competency training or examination requirements as determined by the Registrar upon individual assessment of competency equivalency;

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- b) provide proof of current advanced first aid certification for Reserved Practice Permits as noted in the **NSCNR Emergency First Aid Standard of Practice**;
- c) provide evidence of professional liability protection/insurance as required by the **NSCNR Professional Liability Standard of Practice**, with explicit coverage for manipulative therapies, if required for policy inclusion;
- d) maintain an emergency response protocol appropriate to the clinical setting and associated risk and in accordance with the **NSCNR Emergency Preparedness Standard of Practice**; and
- e) participate in all continuing professional development activities that have been required by the NSCNR since the ND Registrant's last renewal in Manipulation-related techniques and relevant emergency management.

B. Ongoing Competence and Maintenance of Permit

ND Registrants who are issued a Reserved Practice Permit: ND Manipulation are required to renew their permit on an annual basis. At the time of renewal, ND Registrants will be required to provide proof of the following to the NSCNR:

- a) completion of a minimum of **four (4) hours of NSCNR-approved Manipulation-specific continuing education** within the ND Registrant's prior Continuing Education cycle;
- b) demonstration of continued competence through a **minimum of twelve (12) Manipulation related patient contacts** per year;
- c) evidence of professional liability protection/insurance as required by the **NSCNR Professional Liability Standard of Practice**, with explicit coverage for Manipulation;
- d) current advanced first aid certification for Reserved Practice Permits as noted in the **NSCNR Emergency First Aid Standard of Practice**;
- e) participation in all continuing professional development activities that have been required by the NSCNR since the ND Registrant's last renewal in Manipulation techniques and related emergency management.

C. Quality Assurance

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- a) The NSCNR may at any time request that a Registrant submit training or education records, appointment calendars, patient records, emergency protocols, and any other documentation required to demonstrate continued compliance with this Standard of Practice. Failure to do so may result in suspension or revocation of the Registrant's Reserved Practice Permit.
- b) The NSCNR may conduct inspections at any time as set out in the *Chiropractic and Naturopathy Regulations* and the Nova Scotia Chiropractic and Naturopathic Regulator Bylaws.
- c) Failure to maintain continued competence or first aid certification, submit records when requested, or meet any permit maintenance requirements may result in immediate suspension or revocation of the Registrant's Reserved Practice Permit and authorization to perform associated activities.
- d) The NSCNR may refuse to issue or may impose conditions on a Reserved Practice Permit - ND Manipulation if the ND Registrant does not meet the requirements set out in this Standard of Practice or does not demonstrate sufficient knowledge, skill, judgment, or readiness to practise safely.

D. General Standards

ND Registrants authorized to practise Manipulation must:

- a) perform Manipulation only within the naturopathic scope of practice and in compliance with all applicable NSCNR Standards of Practice;
- b) obtain and document informed consent in accordance with the NSCNR Standard of Practice: Informed Consent, including consent specific to Manipulation treatment;
- c) conduct an appropriate clinical assessment prior to initiating Manipulation treatment, including consideration of indications, contraindications, and patient-specific risk factors;
- d) reassess the appropriateness of spinal Manipulation where a patient's clinical status changes;
- e) maintain accurate, specific, and contemporaneous records of all Manipulation treatments in accordance with the **NSCNR Standard of Practice: Patient Record Management**, including but not limited to:

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- i. the type of Manipulation technique performed;
 - ii. anatomical areas or sites treated;
 - iii. patient response to treatment; and
 - iv. any adverse reactions, events, or post-treatment monitoring undertaken;
- f) ensure that all adjunctive equipment and devices used are safe, sterile, and authorized for use in Canada;
- g) ensure personal competency in relevant anatomy, biomechanics, and neurological structures and employ techniques that minimize risk of injury;
- h) ensure that each Manipulation treatment performed aligns with the Registrant’s individual training, competence, and authorized permit area
- i) recognize, manage, and document adverse reactions or events related to general and spinal Manipulation treatment, and initiate appropriate emergency response, referral, or follow-up where required;
- j) perform Manipulation procedures personally and must not delegate Manipulation treatment; and
- k) where the ND Registrant practises in a shared, group, or multi-professional clinical setting, ensure that their Manipulation practice complies with this Standard of Practice independently of other providers’ practices or protocols, including maintaining appropriate documentation, procedures, and emergency preparedness.

6. EXEMPTIONS

Non-manipulative manual therapies, including but not limited to mobilization, soft-tissue techniques, and myofascial therapies, are not Reserved Practices and are not governed by this Standard of Practice. Such therapies remain subject to all applicable NSCNR Standards of Practice, including Informed Consent and Patient Record Management.

7. RESTRICTIONS

A Reserved Practice Permit - Manipulation **does not permit:**

- a) delegation of this Reserved Practice, or



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- b) exceeding any individual registrant's competence, training, or 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

9. ADDITIONAL RELEVANT STANDARDS OF PRACTICE:

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

- Patient Record Management
- First Aid
- Emergency Readiness
- Infectious Disease Prevention and Control
- Informed Consent