

Note to Readers: *In the event of any inconsistency between this document and the legislation that governs chiropractic practice, 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.

Chiropractic and naturopathic clinical education may include Preceptorship learning opportunities which, when occurring in Nova Scotia, are governed by this standard of practice for all Preceptors.

2. OBJECTIVES

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

- a) clarifying Preceptor/Preceptee roles for chiropractic and naturopathic registrants in Nova Scotia;
- b) regulating Preceptee oversight and scope of clinical application permitted for chiropractic and naturopathic Preceptees in Nova Scotia; and
- c) facilitating competency of future licensees and delivery of high-quality clinical education inclusive of practical experience.

3. SCOPE

This standard applies to all who hold a chiropractor or naturopath license with the NSCNR in Nova Scotia who supervise students or interns within their practice(s).

4. DEFINITIONS

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

Direct Supervision means all of the following criteria are met:

- a) **Immediate Availability:** The Preceptor must be physically present and immediately available in the clinical setting to observe, intervene, and provide feedback as required.
- b) **Observation & Feedback:** The Preceptor regularly observes the candidate's interactions, assessments, and procedures, providing real-time guidance and instruction. Document learner activities and complete required evaluations.
- c) **Educational Purpose:** The primary goal is to ensure safe, competent practice while supporting the candidate's professional growth.

Board refers to the Board of the Nova Scotia Chiropractic and Naturopathic Regulator.



SP- P005
Standard of Practice: Preceptorships
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Preceptee means chiropractic or naturopathic student attending an accredited NSCNR-approved educational program who is participating in an educational aspect of that program involving field clinical practice.

Preceptor means a licensed registrant of the NSCNR who will supervise a Preceptee in clinical practice in Nova Scotia.

Preceptorship refers to structured period of supervised clinical practice related to an approved educational program and involving practical experience of a Preceptee in a Preceptor’s workplace.

Regularly Observes means that the Preceptor has consistent, ongoing, and meaningful opportunities to directly or indirectly monitor the Preceptee’s professional activities, clinical skills, and interactions with patients. This involves all of the following key elements:

- a) **Frequency:** Observation must occur often enough to allow the Preceptor to form a reliable assessment of the Preceptee’s competence, safety, and professionalism. This typically includes daily or weekly direct contact, depending on the stage of the Preceptorship.
- b) **Consistency:** Observation must occur on a recurring basis throughout the Preceptorship, not sporadically or only at the beginning and end.
- c) **Depth:** Observation must be sufficient to evaluate both clinical skills (e.g., examination, diagnosis, treatment) and professional behaviours (e.g., communication, ethics, documentation).

Regularly Observes may include, but is not limited to:

- a) Shadowing the Preceptee during patient assessments or treatments;
- b) Reviewing patient records, treatment plans, or charting completed by the Preceptee;
- c) Conducting regular check-ins to discuss patient care, clinical reasoning, and decision-making; and/or
- d) Observing professional interactions with others.

Reserved Practice means an activity, procedure or service within the scope of practice of chiropractic or 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. Preceptor Eligibility



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To serve as a Preceptor, a Registrant must:

- a) hold a current, unrestricted license as a chiropractor or naturopath issued by the NSCNR in Nova Scotia;
- b) be in good standing with the NSCNR;
- c) have a minimum of 5 years active clinical practice experience;
- d) be able to demonstrate appropriate professional liability protection in place which includes student supervision where required by the insurer to ensure coverage compliant with the **NSCNR Standard of Practice: Professional Liability Insurance**;
- e) provide the Registrar with proof of acceptance into the Preceptorship program of the educational institution; and
- f) provide the Registrar with the name of any preceptee and dates of preceptorship in Nova Scotia.

B. Preceptee Eligibility

- a) A Preceptee must be approved for a Preceptorship as a currently enrolled student of an approved chiropractic or naturopathic educational program with appropriate liability coverage in place for Preceptees;
- b) A Preceptee may be approved to provide acupuncture treatment as a clinical modality only if:
 - i. A DC -student Preceptee has provided to Registrar proof of successful completion of a Board-approved acupuncture education program in accordance with the **Chiropractic Standard of Practice – DC Acupuncture/Dry Needling** **or**
 - ii. A ND-student Preceptee has provided to the Registrar proof of successful completion of a minimum of third-year Chinese medicine/acupuncture education or educational program course completion consistent with student clinic requirements for; **and**
 - iii. The supervising Preceptor holds a current **Reserved Practice Permit – DC Acupuncture/Dry Needling or Reserved Practice Permit - ND Acupuncture**, as applicable, issued by the NSCNR.
- c) A ND Preceptee may be approved to provide vitamin B12 injections as a clinical modality only if:
 - i. A ND Preceptee has provided to the Registrar proof of successful completion of a minimum of third-year injection technique education or educational program course completion consistent with student clinic requirements for the same modality; **and**
 - ii. The supervising ND Preceptor holds a current Reserved Practice Permit – Injection Therapies, issued by the NSCNR.



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C. Preceptee Scope of Authorization

- b) Preceptees may perform adjunctive functions for which they have been trained under the direct supervision of an active NSCNR registrant. These activities may include:
 - i. History taking
 - ii. Physical examination procedures
 - iii. Application of therapeutic modalities

- c) Activities related to patient diagnosis and treatment may only be performed following a clinical consultation involving the Preceptor, the Preceptee, and the patient.

- d) The Preceptor must obtain patient consent directly, without the Preceptee present, to ensure that the patient fully understands:
 - i. the role of the Preceptee in their care, and
 - ii. the nature of the treatment to be provided.

- e) Patient consent must be clearly documented in the patient file by the Preceptor confirming, in writing, that the consultation occurred and that consent was obtained.

- f) A Preceptee is prohibited from performing any Reserved Practice that does not comply with section 5B.

D. Quality Assurance

- 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.

- 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.

6. EXEMPTIONS

There are no current exemptions.

7. RESTRICTIONS



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- a) A Preceptee may not use or imply the designation of Doctor of Chiropractic, Naturopathic Doctor or otherwise lead the public to believe that they are licensed or registered by the NSCNR in the Province of Nova Scotia.

- b) Verification of license standing must be provided to the educational institution by the regulator prior to approval as a Preceptor.

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

10. 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
- Informed Consent
- Reserved Practice Permit: DC Acupuncture
- Reserved Practice Permit: ND Acupuncture