

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.

Infectious disease prevention and control is a universal responsibility of all registrants. This Standard establishes the minimum requirements for preventing the transmission of infection in clinical settings, thereby ensuring the safety of patients, registrants, staff, and the public.

2. APPLICATION AND ADMINISTRATION

This Standard of Practice shall apply to all health professionals registered and holding an active license with the NSCNR (the “**Registrant**” or collectively the “**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 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(s) held by the Registrant.

3. OBJECTIVES

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

- a) minimizing risk from preventable infection;
- b) informing consistent practice of Registrants related to infection prevention and control; and
- c) establishing consistent practice expectations for all therapies involving needle insertion

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4. DEFINITIONS

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

Biomedical Waste means waste materials that may contain infectious agents or pose a risk of infection, including sharps and body fluids.

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

Clean Needle Technique (CNT) refers to a standard of care designed to reduce risk of infection and injury when performing procedures involving percutaneous needle insertion.

Infectious Disease Prevention & Control means evidence-based practices designed to prevent transmission of infection in health care settings.

Percutaneous Needle Insertion means any procedure where a needle penetrates the skin, including acupuncture, dry needling, venipuncture, intravenous therapy, and injection 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.

Registrant refers to any chiropractor or naturopathic doctor who is registered and licensed to practice in Nova Scotia with the NSCNR.

5. STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

A. General Standards

All NSCNR Registrants must:

- a) maintain current knowledge and competence in infection prevention and control measures relevant to their scope of practice;
- b) perform treatment-appropriate hand hygiene before and after all patient contact;
- c) ensure equipment, instruments, and clinical environments are cleaned, disinfected, or sterilized in accordance with accepted professional standards;

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- d) ensure that clean objects come into contact **only** with other clean objects during procedures involving percutaneous needle insertion;
- e) use only sterile, Health Canada–approved single-use needles for any procedure or treatment involving a needle;
- f) ensure biomedical waste is collected, stored, and disposed of safely and in compliance with federal, provincial, and municipal requirements; and
- g) establish administrative controls appropriate to risk of clinical activities, including written infection control policies, staff education, and monitoring of compliance where risk is noted.

B. Incident Management

All Registrants must:

- a) document in a secure incident report file any incident involving exposure to biomedical material posing a risk of transmission (e.g., needle-stick injury, blood or body fluid exposure) including:
 - a. date of incident;
 - b. individuals involved;
 - c. nature of the incident;
 - d. how it occurred;
 - e. results of any medical tests;
 - f. treatment provided; and
 - g. any other relevant details;
- b) document the incident in the patient file where it involves a patient;
- c) comply with all aspects of the **NSCNR Standard of Practice: Emergency Preparedness** with attention to areas of risk assessment and incident management; and
- d) maintain such incident reports in a secure incident report file for at least ten years.

6. EXEMPTIONS

There are no applicable exemptions at this time.

SP-P006
Standard of Practice: Infectious Disease Prevention and Control
Approved Date: effective May 27, 2026
Amended: n/a
Next Review Date: 2029

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7. RESTRICTIONS

Registrants must not:

- a) Reuse or attempt to re-sterilize single-use devices.
- b) Use expired, non-sterile, or non-Health Canada-approved devices.
- c) Provide patient care in an environment that does not meet minimum infection prevention and control standards.

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
- Emergency First Aid
- Emergency Readiness
- Clean Needle Technique
- Reserved Practice Permit: Injection Therapies and Intravenous Therapy
- Reserved Practice Permit: Ozone and Oxidative Therapies
- Reserved Practice Permit: Autologous Blood Products (pending)
- Reserved Practice Permit: ND Acupuncture
- Reserved Practice Permit: DC Acupuncture