

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.

2. APPLICATION AND ADMINISTRATION

This Standard of Practice shall apply to all chiropractors and naturopathic doctors registered with the NSCNR who are issued a **Provisional Chiropractor Licence** or a **Provisional Naturopath Licence** by the NSCNR.

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) referral of the matter for consideration by an additional registration and licensing decision maker;
- c) filing a formal complaint under the *Regulated Health Professions Act* regarding the suspected breach or non-compliance; and
- d) immediate suspension of licensure.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Standard of Practice are to uphold public interest and safety by establishing minimum standards for issuing and holding a Provisional Chiropractor Licence and a Provisional Naturopath Licence.

4. DEFINITIONS

In this Standard of Practice:

“**Board**” has the same meaning as defined in the Chiropractic and Naturopathic Regulations;

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Amended: n/a
Next Review Date: 2029

“Provisional Chiropractor” is a person who has been issued a Provisional Chiropractor Licence by the NSCNR;

“Provisional Naturopath” is a person who has been issued a Provisional Naturopath Licence by the NSCNR;

“Provisional Chiropractor Licence” is a conditional licence issued by the NSCNR for a temporary period of time to an applicant who meets all of the requirements for registration in the chiropractor practising register except for passing the registration examinations approved by the Board;

“Provisional Naturopath Licence” is a conditional licence issued by the NSCNR for a temporary period of time to an applicant who meets all of the requirements for registration in the naturopath practising register except for passing the registration examinations approved by the Board;

“registration and licensing decision maker” has the same meaning as defined in the Chiropractic and Naturopathic Regulations;

“reserved practice” has the same meaning as defined in the Chiropractic and Naturopathic Regulations; and

“Reserved Practice Permit” means a permit issued by the Registrar of the NSCNR authorizing a registrant to perform specified restricted activities or reserved practices upon successful completion of Board approved training and competency requirements.

5. PROVISIONAL LICENSES

- a) A Provisional Chiropractor Licence is issued by the registration and licensing decision maker to applicants who, as set out in section 18(2) of the *Regulations Respecting Chiropractic and Naturopathy*, have fulfilled all criteria for registration in the chiropractor practising register except for passing the professional registration examination approved by the Board.
- b) A Provisional Naturopath Licence is issued by the registration and licensing decision maker to applicants who, as set out in section 19(2) of the *Regulations Respecting Chiropractic and Naturopathy*, have fulfilled all criteria for registration in the naturopath practising register except for passing the professional registration examination approved by the Board.
- c) A Provisional Chiropractor Licence is issued for a period of time as determined by the registration and licensing decision maker, which period of time shall not exceed 120 days.
- d) A Provisional Naturopath Licence is issued for a period of time as determined by the registration and licensing decision maker, which period of time shall not exceed 120 days.

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- e) Applicants who qualify for a Provisional Chiropractor Licence or a Provisional Naturopath Licence are identified by the registration and licensing decision maker following review of an application for an active licence category of registration.
- f) A person who holds a Provisional Chiropractor Licence or a Provisional Naturopath Licence is required to immediately notify the NSCNR upon receipt of the results of their professional registration examination results.
- g) A Provisional Chiropractor Licence is revoked upon receipt by the NSCNR of notice that the person who held the Provisional Chiropractor Licence did not successfully complete the required registration and licensing examination.
- h) A Provisional Naturopath Licence is revoked upon receipt by the NSCNR of notice that the person who held the Provisional Naturopath Licence did not successfully complete the required registration and licensing examination.
- i) A Provisional Chiropractor Licence is transitioned to a Direct Patient Care practising licence by the Registrar of the NSCNR upon receipt of notice of successful completion of the required registration and licensing examinations without additional application.
- j) A Provisional Naturopath Licence is transitioned to a Direct Patient Care practising licence by the Registrar of the NSCNR upon receipt of notice of successful completion of the required registration and licensing examinations without additional application.

6. STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

- a) A person who holds a Provisional Chiropractor Licence must maintain current professional liability coverage or malpractice protection at all times in compliance with the NSCNR Standard of Practice – Professional Liability Insurance.
- b) A person who holds a Provisional Naturopath Licence must maintain current professional liability coverage or malpractice protection at all times in compliance with the NSCNR Standard of Practice – Professional Liability Insurance.
- c) A person who holds a Provisional Chiropractor Licence or a Provisional Naturopath Licence is not eligible for a Reserved Practice Permit. For clarity, this means a person who holds a Provisional Chiropractor Licence or a Provisional Naturopath Licence is not permitted to conduct any activity, procedure or service that is a reserved practice.
- d) As set out in section 18(2) of the *Regulations Respecting Chiropractic and Naturopathy*, no person may take or use the title Provisional Chiropractor unless the person holds a Provisional Chiropractor Licence.

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- e) As set out in section 19(2) of the *Regulations Respecting Chiropractic and Naturopathy*, no person may take or use the title Provisional Naturopath unless the person holds a Provisional Naturopath Licence.

7. EXEMPTIONS

The registration and licensing decision maker may, in its sole discretion, extend the time limit for a provisional licence one time only, to a maximum of 30 additional days.

8. RESTRICTIONS

A person who holds a Provisional Chiropractor Licence or a Provisional Naturopath Licence is not eligible to hold a Reserved Practice Permit.

9. 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:

All NSCNR Standards of Practice apply to a person holding a Provisional Chiropractor Licence or a Provisional Naturopath Licence, including but not limited to:

- a) Professional Liability Insurance
- b) Emergency First Aid
- c) Informed Consent
- d) Professional Communications
- Patient Record Management

A Provisional Chiropractor Licence and a Provisional Naturopath Licence are **temporary conditional licenses and not a guarantee of future licensure by the NSCNR**. The NSCNR advises against entering into financial arrangements or contracts related to future practice prior to attaining a direct patient care licence from the NSCNR.