NOVA SCOTIA
CHIROPRACTIC AND
NATUROPATHIC
REGULATOR

SP-ND008 and SP-NDRPP-RxCP
Standard of Practice: Prescribing for Compounding Pharmacy Fulfillment AND Standard of Practice: Reserved Practice Permit: Prescribing DIN Products for Compound Pharmacy Fulfillment.
Approved: Approved Sept 26, 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.

This Standard of Practice establishes the minimum requirements for ND Registrants who hold an active NSCNR license and an Additional Practice Permit for Prescribing for Compounding Pharmacy Fulfillment, authorizing them to perform these Reserved Practices.

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 the ND Registrant's Reserved Practice Permit.

3. OBJECTIVES

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

a) identifying the criteria by which ND Registrants may issue a patient-specific prescription to a compounding pharmacy for a DIN or non-DIN approved product;

b) identifying substances and/or drugs that may be a component of a Prescribed Compounded Product;

c) providing clear requirements for training, authorization, and performance of prescribing practices for Prescriptions fulfilled by a Compounding Pharmacy;

d) ensuring that Prescriptions fulfilled by a Compounding Pharmacy are only by an appropriately licensed Authorized Compounding Pharmacy in Canada; and

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

4. DEFINITIONS

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

Authorized Compounding Pharmacy means a pharmacy specifically authorized by the applicable provincial or territorial pharmacy regulatory authority to compound and/or provide specific substances and drugs in Canada.

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

DIN Product means a drug that has a Drug Identification Number, as assigned by Health Canada to a drug product authorized for sale in Canada.

Drug has the same meaning as set out in the *Chiropractic and Naturopathic Regulations* and the Food and Drugs Act (Canada) and includes any substance or combination of substances included in a prescription or incorporated in a schedule set out in the bylaws;

ND Registrant means, for the purposes of this standard, a naturopathic doctor registered with the NSCNR and holding an active naturopath license.

Non-DIN Product means a patient-specific product prepared by an Authorized Compounding Pharmacy that does not have a Drug Identification Number, does not contain substances with a DIN, and is not otherwise regulated as a DIN drug, controlled substance, narcotic, or other restricted product.

Prescription refers to patient-specific written directions from an authorized health care provider and has the same meaning as set out in the *Chiropractic and Naturopathic Regulations* and means an authorization that meets all of the following criteria:

i. it is made in compliance with all of the following:
   A. the Food and Drugs Act (Canada),
   B. the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Canada),
   C. the NSCNR bylaws and standards;
ii. it is made by a person authorized by law to prescribe drugs or devices, and
iii. it allows for the dispensing of a specified drug or device for use by a designated person;

Prescription fulfilled by a Compounding Pharmacy means a patient-specific product prepared by an Authorized Compounding Pharmacy for a patient pursuant to patient-specific written directions from an authorized health care provider and is not prepared for general sale, resale, office stock, commercial distribution, or use by multiple patients.

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

Substance has the same meaning as set out in the *Chiropractic and Naturopathic Regulations* and means anything, other than a drug, permitted by scope of practice legislation or bylaws, that is publicly available, and which may include botanical tinctures, botanical powders, herbals, extracts, base creams, slaves, ointments, vitamins, minerals, and amino acids.

5. SCOPE OF AUTHORIZATION

A. Non-DIN Product Prescriptions fulfilled by a Compounding Pharmacy (no permit required)

A ND Registrant who issues a Non-DIN Product Prescription for fulfillment by a Compounding Pharmacy does not require a Reserved Practice Permit.

The ND Registrant must comply with the following:

a) maintain an active NSCNR Direct Patient Care License with no restrictions that, in the opinion of the Registrar, may impact competent and ethical patient care in this area;

b) hold and maintain an active NSCNR Reserved Practice Permit in Injection Therapies with IV Authorization *if products prescribed are to be delivered via injection or IV either in office or at home*;

c) completion of all continuing professional development activities mandated by the NSCNR since the ND Registrant's last renewal related to prescribing for compounding pharmacy use and related emergency management.

B. Reserved Practice Permit: Prescribing DIN Products for Compound Pharmacy Fulfillment:

a) A ND Registrant who issues a DIN Product Prescription to be fulfilled by a Compounding Pharmacy must hold a current **Reserved Practice Permit: Prescribing DIN Products for Compound Pharmacy Fulfillment**.

b) To be **eligible for and maintain** a Reserved Practice Permit: Prescribing DIN Products for Compound Pharmacy Fulfillment, a ND Registrant must:

i. maintain an active NSCNR Direct Patient Care License category with no restrictions that, in the opinion of the Registrar, may impact competent and ethical patient care in this area;

ii. provide evidence acceptable to the Registrar of successful completion of one of the following:
(a) Canadian Prescribing and Therapeutics Examination; or
(b) NSCNR Board-approved equivalent examination;

iii. hold and maintain an active **NSCNR Reserved Practice Permit in Injection Therapies with IV Authorization** if products are to be delivered via injection and/or IV;

iv. be able to demonstrate successful completion of the appropriate training competency in intravenous (IV) iron from NSCNR approved training programs and courses, where DIN-iron products are prescribed;

v. maintain current **Advanced Emergency Life Support** for Reserved Practice Permits as noted in the **NSCNR Emergency First Aid Standard;**

vi. have an emergency response protocol appropriate to the clinical setting and associated risk and in accordance with the **NSCNR Emergency Preparedness Standard of Practice**;

vii. provide evidence of professional liability protection/insurance in compliance with the **NSCNR Professional Liability Standard of Practice**. Coverage policies must provide professional liability insurance for any additional services authorized under an NSCNR-issued Additional Practice Permit. Where required

by the insurer, specific additional practice activities must be explicitly identified in the policy; and

viii. successfully complete of all continuing professional development activities mandated by the NSCNR since the ND Registrant's last renewal related to prescribing for compounding pharmacy use and related emergency management.

6. STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

A. Clinical Standards

A ND Registrant providing any prescription for fulfillment by a Compounding Pharmacy must:

a) ensure all prescriptions for fulfillment by compounding pharmacies for non-DIN Products are within the naturopathic scope of practice;

b) ensure that Non-DIN Products listed in **Appendix B are not prescribed** for fulfillment by an Authorized Compounding Pharmacy.

c) ensure that a ND Registrant holds a NSCNR **Reserved Practice Permit: Prescribing DIN Products for Compound Pharmacy Fulfillment** where the prescription includes any approved DIN Products (see Appendix A for approved list);

d) ensure that a ND Registrant holds a **NSCNR Reserve Practice Permit – Injection Therapy and IV Authorizations** where the prescription includes any products that require administration by injection or IV:

e) ensure prescriptions for fulfillment by compounding pharmacies are dispensed only by an Authorized Compounding Pharmacy;

f) ensure that each prescription for fulfillment by compounding pharmacies aligns with the ND Registrant's individual training and competence;

g) provide only prescriptions for fulfillment by compounding pharmacies that are a patient-specific component of a naturopathic treatment plan and not intended for office stock, resale, commercial distribution, or use by another person;

h) obtain and document informed consent in accordance with the **NSCNR Standard of Practice: Informed Consent**;

i) monitor and record the patient's response and identify adverse effects and refer where appropriate or outside of scope of practice;

j) discontinue all prescriptions for fulfillment by compounding pharmacies when ongoing use is no longer clinically appropriate;

k) immediately contact affected patients where the ND Registrant becomes aware of a recall, quality concern, contamination concern, labelling error, dosing error, or other material risk related to a compounded product ordered for a patient:

l) maintain accurate, specific, and contemporaneous records of all aspects of prescribed products consistent with the **NSCNR Standard of Practice: Patient Record Management**, including but not limited to:

   i. clinical indication, relevant contraindications, and confirmation of informed consent;

   ii. A complete copy of prescription provided including dosage, route and frequency of administration, and duration of home use;

   iii. details of home use administration including patient home route of administration (including injection site and technique where applicable);

   iv. any further documentation or information provided to the patient;

   v. any further documentation or information received from the Compounding Pharmacy; and

   vi. patient response, monitoring, adverse events, complications, and actions taken; and

m) where the ND Registrant practises in a shared or multi-professional setting, ensure their prescriptions for fulfillment by compounding pharmacies practice complies with this Standard and that their procedures, documentation, and emergency protocols meet NSCNR requirements independent of other providers' practices or protocols

B. General Standards

A ND Registrant authorized to prescribe for fulfillment by compounding pharmacies must:

a) ensure the product is shipped or otherwise provided directly by the Authorized Pharmacy to the patient or to the prescriber ND where in-office dispensing is required;

b) ensure that patients are made aware that products received from Authorized Compounding Pharmacies are privately paid directly by the patient to the pharmacy or by another third-party payer, and not billed to, reimbursed by, or represented as eligible under a Nova Scotia provincial drug plan;

c) ensure that there are no financial interests, referral arrangements, incentives, rebates, ownership interests, or other conflicts of interest that influence the recommendation, prescription, or written direction for a non-DIN compounded product or an approved DIN prescription filled by a compounding pharmacy;

d) disclose to the patient before the prescription or written direction is issued any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest involving an Authorized Compounding Pharmacy;

e) not require a patient to use a specific Authorized Compounding Pharmacy unless there is a clinically or practically justified reason; and

f) not receive payment, commission, rebate, or other benefit from a pharmacy in exchange for directing patients to that pharmacy.

C. Standards for Prescriptions issued for fulfillment by an Authorized Compounding Pharmacy

a) A prescription or written direction must only be issued as part of a specific patient treatment plan following clinical assessment and naturopathic diagnosis.

b) An ND Registrant may **only** provide a prescription for fulfillment by compounding pharmacies for an approved DIN Product as identified in this standard of practice (see Appendix A) **and** the ND Registrant holds this Reserved Practice Permit.

c) Prescriptions may not be issued for non-DIN substances noted in Appendix B.

d) All patient-specific prescriptions to be fulfilled by an Authorized Compounding Pharmacy must contain the following information:
   i. patient name, address, and phone number;
   ii. date issued;
   iii. ND Registrant name, professional designation, licence number, clinic address, and telephone number;
   iv. product, ingredient or drug name;
   v. product, ingredient or drug strengths;
   vi. quantity prescribed;
   vii. form of products, ingredients or drugs;
   viii. directions for use including frequency or interval or maximum daily use;
   ix. refill authorization and interval between refills, if any;
   x. signature of the ND Registrant.

e) A copy of any prescription issued must be maintained in the patient's file.

f) Refills must be must not exceed a clinically reasonable duration and must not exceed the reassessment interval appropriate to the patient, product, route, dose, and risk profile.

g) Prescriptions must not be open-ended or indefinite.

h) ND Registrants must complete an appropriate clinical reassessment prior to re-issuing any prescription.

D. Quality Assurance

a) The NSCNR may at any time request that a ND 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 or additional regulatory review.

b) The NSCNR may conduct inspections at any time as set out in the *Chiropractic and Naturopathy Regulations* and Nova Scotia Chiropractic and Naturopathic Regulator Bylaws.

c) Failure to maintain continued competence or required level of emergency first aid certification, submit records when requested, or meet any permit maintenance requirements represents a breach of this standard of practice.

7. EXEMPTIONS

a) For the purposes of transition to the Nova Scotia Chiropractic and Naturopathic Regulator, applicants who have successfully completed NPLEX Part II – Clinical Elective Examination (Elective Pharmacology) or the CONO Pharmacy examination **prior to May 27, 2026,** will be considered compliant with the requirement of examination in 6(A)(a) of this Standard of Practice.

b) Non-DIN Products listed in **Appendix B are not permitted** to be prescribed for fulfillment by and Authorized Compounding Pharmacy.

8. RESTRICTIONS

This standard of practice does **not** authorize a ND Registrant to:

a) issue any prescription outside the Registrant's individual competence, training, approved list of substances, or authorized scope of practice, including any limitations or conditions imposed by the NSCNR;
b) delegate any aspect of prescribing for Compounding Pharmacies;
c) prescribe any DIN Products without the associated Reserved Practice Permit;
d) prescribe any additional DIN drugs, controlled substances, narcotics or other restricted substances other than those listed in Appendix A;
e) issue prescriptions or written directions for non-patient-specific protocols, standing orders, or bulk preparation;
f) use prescribed compounded products as a mechanism to avoid applicable federal, provincial, territorial, or pharmacy regulatory requirements;
g) create or maintain office stock of compounded products;
h) provide compounded products for resale, general distribution, or use by more than one patient;
i) utilized any unauthorized compounding pharmacy; or
j) prescribe to Compounding Pharmacies for cosmetic or non-therapeutic purposes.

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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:

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

- In-Office Dispensing
- Patient Record Management
- Professional Liability
- Informed Consent
- Emergency First Aid
- Emergency Preparedness

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APPENDIX A: Approved DIN Products for Prescribing

Only permitted for ND Registrants with a current Reserved Practice Permit RxCP: Prescribing DIN Products for Compound Pharmacy Fulfillment

ONLY the following DIN products may be prescribed by permit holders at this time:

1. Cyanocobalamin (DIN B12),
2. Venofer (iron sucrose)
3. Monoferric (ferric derisomaltose)

NOTES:

For clarification, ND Registrants and Reserved Practice Permit holders are restricted and prohibited from prescribing Viscosupplementation / Hyaluronan Products and all Corticosteroids at this time.

For clarification, Nova Scotia Pharmacies are not permitted to fulfill ND prescriptions for DIN products as Authorized Compounding Pharmacies are under NSPR legislation and regulations at this time.

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APPENDIX B: Exemption Listing

The following **Non-DIN Products** are not permitted for Prescribing for Fulfillment by Compounding Pharmacies at any time:

- Ophthalmic preparations are not permitted.
- Any preparations containing Non-DIN peptides are not permitted.
- Any preparations containing Cannabinoids, THC or CBD are not permitted as controlled substances.