

**DISTRICT OF  
COLUMBIA  
MUNICIPAL  
REGULATIONS  
for  
NATUROPATHIC  
MEDICINE**

**CHAPTER 52 NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE**

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**5200. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 5200.1 This chapter shall apply to applicants for and holders of a license to practice naturopathic medicine.
- 5200.2 Chapters 40 (Health Occupations: General Rules) and 41 (Health Occupations: Administrative Procedures) of this title shall supplement this chapter.
- 5200.3 An applicant for a license to practice naturopathic medicine shall furnish proof that the applicant is a District resident or has an office or location of practice involved in the practice of naturopathic medicine in the District of Columbia. A post office box shall not be proof of residency nor shall it demonstrate that an applicant either has an office or location of practice in the District.

**5201. TERM OF LICENSE**

- 5201.1 Subject to § 5201.2, a license issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire at twelve o'clock midnight of December 31st of each even-numbered year.
- 5201.2 If the Director changes the renewal system pursuant to § 4006.3 of chapter 40 of this title, a license issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire at twelve o'clock midnight of the last day of the month of the birthdate of the holder of the license, or other date as established by the Director.
- 5201.3 An applicant for renewal of a license who fails to renew the license by the date the license expires may renew the license for up to sixty (60) days after the date of expiration by completing the application, submitting the required supporting documents, and paying the required late fee. Upon renewal, the applicant shall be deemed to have possessed a valid license during the period between the expiration of the license and the renewal thereof.
- 5201.4 If a licensee applying for a renewal of a license fails to renew the license and pay the late fee within the sixty (60) days after the expiration of the applicant's license, the license shall be considered to have lapsed on the date of expiration and the health care professional shall thereafter be required to apply for reinstatement of an expired license and meet all requirements and fees for reinstatement.

5201.5 The Board may, in its discretion, grant an extension of the sixty (60) day period, up to a maximum of one (1) year, to renew after expiration if the applicant's failure to renew was for good cause. As used in this section, "good cause" includes the following:

- (a) Serious and protracted illness of the applicant; or
- (b) The death or serious and protracted illness of a member of the applicant's immediate family.

5201.6 An extension granted under this section shall not exempt a licensee from complying with the continuing education requirements pursuant to § 5206.

## **5202. EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

5202.1 An applicant shall furnish proof satisfactory to the Board in accordance with § 504(e-1)(1) of the Act, (D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.04(e-1)(1) (2001)), that the applicant has:

- (a) Earned a degree of doctor of naturopathic medicine from a college or university which at the time of the awarding of the degree was accredited by or a candidate for accreditation with:
  - (1) The Council of Naturopathic Medicine Education (CNME), so long as the CNME maintains recognition from the United States Department of Education; or
  - (2) Any other accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.

5202.2 The Board of Medicine shall not waive the educational requirements for licensure to practice naturopathic medicine for person registered to practice naturopathy or naturopathic healing.

## **5203--5204. RESERVED**

## **5205 NATIONAL EXAMINATION**

5205.1 Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, an applicant shall receive a passing score on the required level of the examination sponsored by the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination (NPLEX) basic science examination and clinical science examination sections administered by the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners (NABNE), or other examination approved by the Board of Medicine.

5205.2 A passing score on the Part I series of the Basic Science Examination shall be a minimum converted score of seventy-five (75) on each of the five (5) parts.

5205.3 An applicant who does not achieve a score of at least sixty (60) on each of failed parts shall be required to retake the entire Part I series.

5205.4 An applicant shall take and pass Part II of the Core Clinical Science Examination within ten (10) years of taking Part I of the Basic Science Examination. Failure to take and pass Part II within the ten (10) year period shall result in the applicant retaking Part I again.

- 5205.5 A passing score on Part II of the Core Clinical Science Examination shall consist of:
- (a) Achieving a minimum converted score of at least seventy-five (75) on all eight (8) Part II Core Clinical Science Examinations; or
  - (b) Under the Compensatory Model for Part II Core Clinical Science Series:
    - (1) Achieving a converted score on the Physical and Clinical Examination of at least seventy-five (75);
    - (2) Achieving an average converted score on the eight (8) Part II Core Clinical Science Examinations of at least seventy-five (75) with Clinical Add-On Examination scores not being included in the average; and
    - (3) Achieving a converted score for every Part II Core Clinical Science Examination of at least seventy (70).

5205.6 Part II Add-On Examinations for Homeopathy, Minor Surgery and Acupuncture shall not be required.

## **5206. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

5206.1 Subject to § 5206.2, this section shall apply to applicants for the renewal, reactivation, or reinstatement of a license for a term expiring February 28, 2008.

5206.2 This section shall not apply to applicants for an initial license by examination, reciprocity, or endorsement, nor shall it apply to applicants for the first renewal of a license granted by examination.

5206.3 A continuing education credit shall be valid only if it is part of a program or activity approved by the Board in accordance with § 5207.

5206.4 An applicant for renewal of a license shall:

- (a) Have completed thirty (30) hours of approved continuing education credit during the two (2) year period preceding the date the license expires;
- (b) Attest to completion of the required continuing education credit on the renewal application form; and
- (c) Be subject to a random audit.

5206.5 To qualify for a license a person in inactive status within the meaning of § 511 of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.11 (2001) for five (5) years who submits an application to reactivate a license shall submit proof pursuant to § 5206.8 of having completed fifteen (15) hours of approved continuing education credit in the year immediately preceding the date of the application.

5206.6 To qualify for a license, a person in inactive status within the meaning of § 511 of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.11 (2001) for more than five (5) years who submits an application to reactivate a license shall submit proof pursuant to § 5206.8 of having completed approved continuing education credit in the year immediately preceding the date of the application as follows:

- (a) Thirty (30) hours of approved continuing education credit; and
  - (b) One hundred sixty (160) hours within a sixty (60) day period of professional practice under the supervision of a naturopathic physician.
- 5206.7 To qualify for a license, an applicant for reinstatement of a license shall submit proof pursuant to § 5206.8 of having completed approved continuing education credit in the year immediately preceding the date of the application as follows:
- (a) Thirty (30) hours of approved continuing education credit; and
  - (b) One hundred sixty (160) hours within a sixty (60) day period of professional practice under the supervision of a naturopathic physician.
- 5206.8 Except as provided in § 5206.10, an applicant under this section shall prove completion of required continuing education credits by submitting with the application the following information with respect to each program:
- (a) The name and address of the sponsor of the program;
  - (b) The name of the program, its location, a description of the subject matter covered, and the names of the instructors;
  - (c) The dates on which the applicant attended the program;
  - (d) The hours of credit claimed; and
  - (e) Verification by the sponsor of completion, by signature or stamp.
- 5206.9 Beginning with the 2008 renewal period, the Board shall conduct a random audit of continuing education credits at the completion of each renewal period.
- 5206.10 Applicants for renewal of a license shall only be required to prove completion of the required continuing education credit by submitting proof pursuant to § 5206.8 if requested to do so as part of the random audit, or if otherwise requested to do so by the Board.
- 5207. APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**
- 5207.1 The Board may, in its discretion, approve continuing education programs and activities designed to maintain, develop, or increase the knowledge, skills, and professional performance of persons licensed to practice as naturopathic physicians and which meet the other requirements of this section.
- 5207.2 The Board may approve the following types of continuing education programs, if the programs meet the requirements of § 5207.3:
- (a) An undergraduate or graduate course given at an accredited college or university;
  - (b) A seminar or workshop;
  - (c) An educational program given at a conference; and

(d) In-service training.

5207.3 To qualify for approval by the Board, a continuing education program or activity shall do the following:

(a) Be current in its subject matter;

(b) Be developed and taught by qualified individuals; and

(c) Meet one of the following requirements:

(1) Be administered or approved by a recognized national, state, or local naturopathic medicine organization; health care organization; accredited health care facility; or an accredited college or university; or

(2) Be submitted by the program sponsors to the Board for review no less than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the presentation and be approved by the Board.

5207.4 The Board may issue and update a list of approved continuing education programs.

5207.5 An applicant shall have the burden of verifying whether a program is approved by the Board pursuant to this section prior to attending the program.

**5208. RESERVED.**

**5209. RESERVED.**

**5210. LAWFUL PRACTICE.**

5210.1 An individual licensed to practice naturopathic medicine under the Act may use the titles "Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine," "Naturopathic Physician," "Licensed Naturopath," "Naturopathic Doctor," "Doctor of Naturopathy," "Naturopath," or the initials "ND."

5210.2 An individual licensed to practice naturopathic medicine may:

a) Administer or provide for preventive and therapeutic purposes natural medicines by their appropriate route of administration the following:

(1) Natural remedies;

(2) Topical medicine;

(3) Counseling;

(4) Hypnotherapy;

(5) Dietary therapy;

(6) Naturopathic physical medicine;

(7) Therapeutic devices; and

(8) Barrier devices for contraception.

- (b) Review and interpret the results of diagnostic procedures commonly used by physicians in general practice, including:
  - (1) Physical and orificial examinations;
  - (2) Electrocardiograms;
  - (3) Diagnostic imaging techniques;
  - (4) Phlebotomy;
  - (5) Clinical laboratory test and examinations; and
  - (6) Physiological function tests.

5210.4

An individual licensed to practice naturopathic medicine under this Act shall not:

- (a) Prescribe, dispense, or administer any controlled substances, except those natural medicine authorized by this Act;
- (b) Perform surgical procedures, except for minor office procedures, as defined by rule;
- (c) Use for therapeutic purposes, any device regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that has not been approved by the FDA;
- (d) Participate in naturopathic childbirth, unless the naturopathic physician:
  - (1) Passes a specialty examination in obstetrics or natural childbirth approved by the Advisory Committee on Naturopathic Medicine, the Board of Medicine, or the Mayor, such as the American College of Nurse Midwives Written Examination or an equivalent national examination;
  - (2) Has a minimum of 100 hours of course work, internship, or preceptorship in obstetrics of natural childbirth approved by the Advisory Committee on Naturopathic Medicine;
  - (3) Files with the Department of Health and maintains a written collaboration agreement with a licensed obstetrician who is qualified to perform obstetrical surgery; and
  - (4) Has assisted in a minimum of fifty (50) supervised births, including prenatal and postnatal care, under the direct supervision of a licensed naturopathic, medical, or osteopathic physician with training in obstetrics or natural childbirth, at least twenty-five (25) of which document the naturopathic physician as the primary birth attendant.

**5211.****STANDARDS OF CONDUCT**

5211.1

Any holder of a license under this chapter to practice as a naturopathic physician shall comply with the standards of ethical and professional conduct established by the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians as they may be amended or republished from time to time.

**5299. DEFINITIONS**

5299.1 As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings ascribed:

Applicant -- a person applying for a license to practice naturopathic medicine under this chapter.

Board -- the Board of Medicine, established by § 203(a) of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1202.03 (1985).

Naturopathic physical medicine -- the use of the physical agents of air, water, heat, cold, sound, and light, and the physical modalities of electrotherapy, biofeedback, diathermy, ultraviolet light, ultrasound, hydrotherapy, and exercise, includes naturopathic manipulation and mobilization therapy.

5299.2 The definitions in § 4099 of chapter 40 of this title are incorporated by reference into and are applicable to this chapter.