



Natural Medicine News

Recognition, Registration & Accreditation in Natural Medicine

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Greetings from the Board of Governors

The process of re-thinking traditional concepts of medicine and therapy is taking place throughout the entire world and is more commonly termed Natural Medicine Practice. Until recently, Allopathic Medicine has slowly and very reluctantly accepted this development. Typically, characteristics of this process are more seriously reflected on the fact that Medicine is a biological science; the human being is interconnected with his environment and is made up of Body, Mind, Spirit and Soul and not just the mere sum of his material data.

For more than a century, Allopathic Medicine has rejected and attacked what it considered techniques that are less than worthy. Empirical methods felt to be beyond serious medicine often ridiculed and given the status of Para-Medical or "Mysticism".

Owing to the success of such methods, they have not only survived until today, they have attained more and more significance and are now termed: **Medicine as a Natural Science.**

The Examining Board of Natural Medicine Practitioners Inc. founded in 1998 to service the need of an ever-growing demand for Natural Medicine health care in Canada. The founding directors adopted the principles and model of the WHO sanctioned Medicina Alternativa Institute. In 2005, EBNMP Canada™ evolved and the titles DNM[®], RNP[®], RAP[®], RNMP[®] and RLMP[®] trademarked to safeguard the identity and services of Members in Good Standing within the organization.



Who are Natural Medicine Practitioners[©]?

Natural Medicine Practice falls within what is known as complementary, alternative or Empirical Medicine, which include a variety of Natural Remedies, manual techniques and exercises that are used to maintain well-being and to treat or prevent illness worldwide. According to World Health Organization, the use of natural medicine in both developing and developed countries has greatly increased in the last 30 years. In the developed world, consumers look to Natural Medicine for a less invasive means to manage chronic diseases.

There are three different groups of practitioners that use the science of natural medicine:

1. ND - Naturopathic Doctor,
2. DNM[®] - Natural Medicine Practitioners[©],
3. DIM[©] - Western trained medical professionals who utilize Natural Medicine Modalities as a complement to conventional treatment.
 - **Naturopathic Doctors** - Currently regulated in Canada: Ontario (BDDT-N), Nova Scotia (NSAND), Alberta (AANP/CNDA), Manitoba (MBND), Saskatchewan (SANP) and British Columbia (CNPBC).
 - **Natural Medicine Practitioners[®]** - DNM[®] maintains a strict definition of natural healing that does not incorporate surgical, non-natural pharmaceutical or obstetrical care into the practice. Training must include graduation from a formal course of study plus clinical internship.
 - **Western Trained Medical Professionals** - DIM[©] includes but is not limited to Chiropractors, Medical Doctors, Dentists, Osteopaths, Orthomolecular Practitioners and Nurse Practitioners who must have completed 1000 hrs (minimum) of training and experience in natural medicine used as a complement to conventional treatment.

Identity of Titles

The profession of natural medicine is not new to Canada; however, the way it is defined is constantly changing. Our members are professionals of varying skills classed as a Natural Medicine Practitioner[©].

As a member service, EBNMP Canada™ has classified five (5) professional designations under which our members are identified.

Definition of Titles

- **DNM[®] - Doctorate of Natural Medicine[®]** - a multidisciplinary group of practitioners who make use of natural healing agents and therapies in the treatment of health conditions such as acupuncture, reflexology, hydrotherapy, herbal medicines, biochemical therapy, clinical nutrition, homeopathic remedies and counselling.
- **RNP[®] - Registered Naturotherapy Practitioner[®]** - a multidisciplinary group of practitioners who use make use of

natural healing agents and therapies in the treatment of health conditions and must be under the guidance of a DNM[®] or other regulated health professional.

- **RAP[®] - Registered Acupuncture Practitioner[®]** - practitioners who provide treatment utilizing Traditional Chinese Medicine and acupuncture to diagnose injuries, diseases and disorders of patients.
- **RNMP[®] - Registered Nutritional Medicine Practitioner[®]** - practitioners who provide evaluate the nutritional status of clients, provide nutritional counselling, utilize specific dietary advice and recommend nutritional supplements.
- **RLMP[®] - Registered Lifestyle Management Practitioner[®]** - practitioners who provide assess clients based on general health assessments and provide counselling and coaching on holistic life skills.

EBNMP Canada[™] was instrumental in the registration of these titles under the National Occupations Classification (N.O.C) with Human Resources and Skill Development Canada. Looking ahead, we still have a lot more work to do.

Protection of Titles

Protection of Titles is the first step towards regulation. The titles issued by EBNMP Canada[™] are the property of the World Board of Natural Medicine (WBNM), and must be surrendered when registration ceases or at the request of the disciplinary committee. No other organization, association or entity has the authority to issue these trademarks without express written consent of the trademark owner.

Types of Regulation

There are 3 primary forms of regulation used to grant individuals the right or privileges to perform certain activities: licensure, certification and registration.

- **Licensure** is the most restrictive way that entails the creation of a monopoly on the regulated activities of a profession through enactment of profession-specific practice acts. Licensed practitioners gain an exclusive right to deliver services and the profession enjoys protection of its titles.
- **Certification** is less restrictive than licensure and is achieved using title protection acts (trademarks or copy writes) that give a designated "recognition" to individuals who meet qualifications set by a regulatory agency. Non-certified individuals may still offer services but prohibited from using the designated title or claiming to be a titleholder.
- **Registration** is the least restrictive and achieved through registration requirements set up by the specialty board that involves the registration of an individual's name and address. It does little more than provide a roster of practitioners.

Administration of Regulation

The actual regulation of a profession is carried out through administrative structures and laws that establish the regulatory framework for the profession.

How regulation is achieved reflects the legislature's delegation of its regulatory authority to another body to carry out the regulation. In Canada, the 3 main institutional frameworks identified in regulatory administration are: direct government control; partial self-regulation; and self-regulation.

- **Direct Government Control:** Under direct control, the province is responsible for all aspects of regulation and administration including setting requirements for entry to practice, professional standards, and investigation of complaints, and discipline; with or without the assistance of an advisory board. In Ontario, the majority of health care professions are licensed and regulated under the Health Professions Regulatory Act.
- **Partial Self-Regulation:** Some Provinces utilize some form of partial self-regulation. The profession is self-governing in the sense of governing its membership under an Act of Parliament.
- **Self-Regulation or Self-Administration:** The Practice of Natural Medicine is not yet regulated in Canada therefore most groups are self-governing; wherein the governing body, whether a Council, Board, or College, is responsible for all decisions both administrative and professional-specific. This includes clinical, ethical, investigative and disciplinary. A majority of the members who serve on the Board of Governors are Members in Good Standing of the profession and who may either be appointed or elected from the membership. In a broader sense, "self-regulation" means that a member's professional conduct is judged by a jury of their peers, regardless of the bureaucratic form of administration. The hallmark of self-regulation is peer review in clinical review and disciplinary proceedings.

EBNMP Canada™ is a Self-Regulatory body for Natural Medicine Practitioners® who are identified by protected and trademarked titles.

DNM® Associations

During the growth and evolution of the organization, the EBNMP Canada™ Board of Directors decided to form provincial committees to advocate on behalf of members locally, through a forum comprised of DNM® members.

The EBNMP Canada™ Bylaws provide for the forming of committees for various functions to assist members. These provincial committees were called "DNM® Associations" and EBNMP Canada™ initially funded them.

They had a specific function, purpose, time frame, budget, funding and feedback to the parent company. These associations were allowed to use

the protected title of DNM[®] within their name.

The Associations were given strict guidelines as to their operation and function. This included providing the parent company with banking information, following rules on the name to be used, use of the EBNMP Canada[™] trademarked titles, the manner in which members were to be recruited and the yearly submission of an activities and funds usage report.

In 2008, the EBNMP Canada[™] Board of Directors recognized that the associations failed to fulfill the need of members and the burden of member services fell to the parent company. A decision was then taken to systematically withdraw acknowledgement of all "DNM[®]" associations thereby rendering any still operating entities null and void.

As a result, any association claiming to represent DNM[®] members provincially are no longer legally permitted to use the protected proprietary title of DNM[®], Doctor of Natural Medicine[™] or Doctorate of Natural Medicine[®] within their name because it is a trademarked title reserved only for use by individual members of EBNMP Canada[™] who remain in Good Standing on a yearly basis, i.e. EBNMP[®] certified.

They cannot be a DNM[®] association, a Doctorate of Natural Medicine[®] association, or a Doctor of Natural Medicine[™] association.

Any such Association holding themselves out in this way, and not authorized by EBNMP Canada[™], are guilty of fraud; as is anyone holding themselves out to be DNM[®] without the same authorization.

Acupuncture Updates

The Transitional Council of the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario (TCMPAO) has taken a major step towards establishing the self-regulation of the TCM profession.

In January 2011, the Transitional Council of the TCMPAO submitted the revised draft "Registration Regulation" and the draft "Professional Misconduct Regulation" to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care for approval. The Transitional Council has done a lot of work in the past two years in developing these two core regulations.

Currently, they are developing the "Jurisprudence Course" and "Safety Program" which practitioners will be instructed to complete before applying for registration. Additionally, they are developing the "Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition" (PLAR) tools and processes.

The Province of Ontario is regulating not only Acupuncture but the practice of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture. The EBNMP[™] wishes to congratulate the Transitional Council on its progress thus far and we pledge our full support.

Conference 2011

The 2011 International Conference on Integrative Medicine will take place at the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto in October 2011. More details will follow.