

# NATUROPATHIC REGULATION IN CANADA: CURRENT STATE



Naturopathic doctors (NDs) are regulated in most provinces and territories, with scope of practice set through provincial legislation. The level of authority varies significantly across the country.

## WHAT'S CONSISTENT ACROSS REGULATED PROVINCES:

- 'Naturopath' and 'Naturopathic Doctor' are protected titles restricted to regulated practitioners
- CNME-accredited education required for registration
- Approved licensing examinations
- Standards for clinical competence and safety
- Defined authorization for restricted acts

## WHERE SCOPE DIFFERS

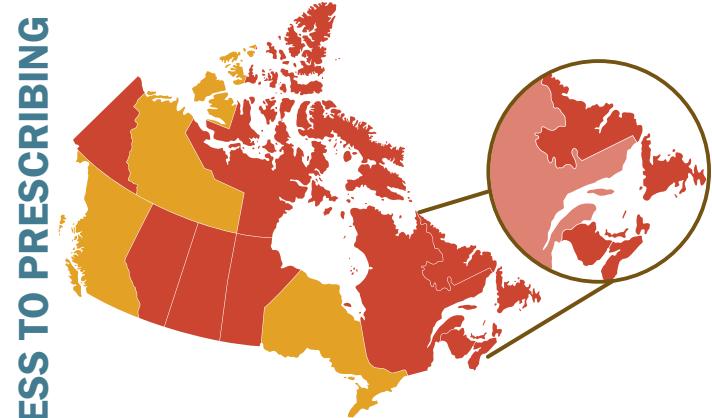
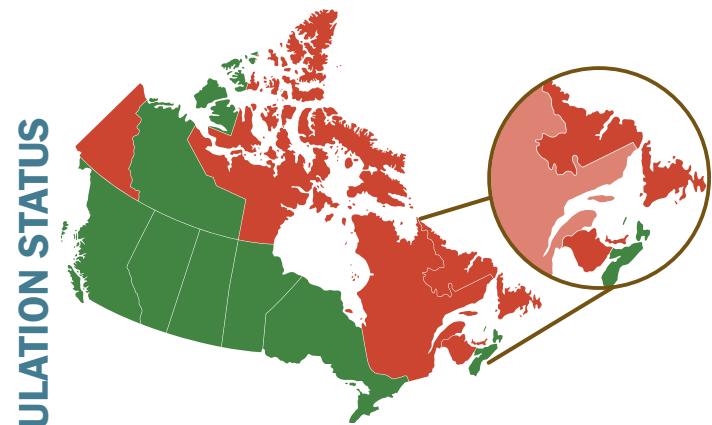
- **Prescribing rights** (broad in some provinces, limited or absent in others)
- **Laboratory authority** (from broad access to limited panels)
- **Procedures** (e.g., injections, IV therapy, minor surgery — certified or fully authorized depending on jurisdiction)
- **Diagnostic imaging** (authorized in a few provinces; restricted in most)

## NATIONAL TRENDS

- Movement toward **competency-based scopes** aligned with training
- Increased **harmonization** of lab access, procedures, and prescribing models
- Ongoing **modernization of older legislation**
- Active engagement in **unregulated provinces** to establish statutory frameworks
- Stronger alignment with **health-system modernization** and team-based care

## UNREGULATED PROVINCES/TERRITORIES

Naturopathic doctors maintain professional standards through accredited education, approved licensing examinations, association membership, and adherence to safety and insurance requirements. Regulatory pathways are currently being explored in several regions.



# EDUCATION & TRAINING: NATUROPATHIC DOCTORS IN NORTH AMERICA



## A STANDARDIZED, ACCREDITED MEDICAL EDUCATION

All regulated provinces require graduation from an **accredited naturopathic medical program**. These programs deliver a **four-year advanced** curriculum designed to prepare graduates for safe primary and adjunctive care.

## ACADEMIC CLINICAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS:

- **Minimum four academic years** of training after completion of a bachelor's degree with appropriate medical prerequisites
- **Biomedical sciences:** anatomy, physiology, pathology, microbiology, immunology, biochemistry
- **Clinical sciences:** physical examination, clinical diagnosis, differential diagnosis, lab interpretation, pharmacology
- **Therapeutic disciplines:** clinical nutrition, botanical medicine, lifestyle counselling, physical medicine, and health promotion
- **Professional competencies:** ethics, documentation, practice standards, interprofessional collaboration
- **Supervised patient care** in accredited teaching clinics

## LICENSING EXAMINATIONS:

To enter practice in regulated Canadian provinces, graduates must successfully complete **approved licensing examinations** that assess:

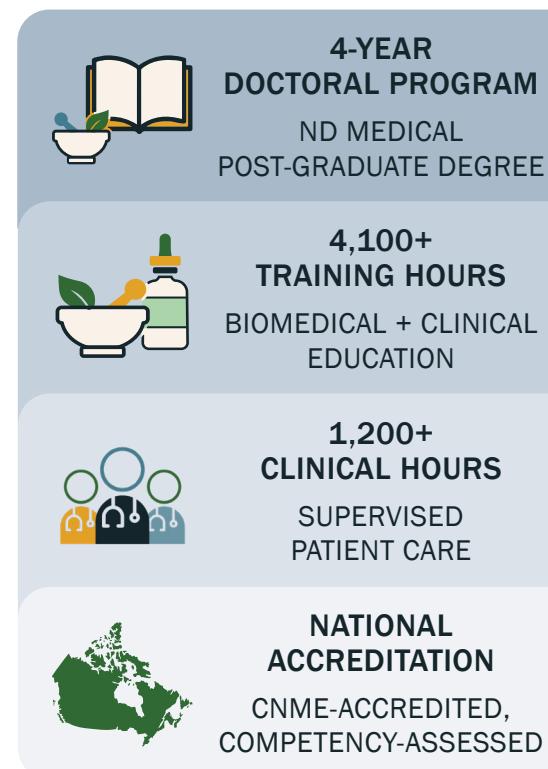
- Biomedical knowledge
- Diagnostic skills
- Clinical judgment
- Safe and effective patient management
- Jurisprudence and Ethical Conduct

All jurisdictions with appropriate scope require **additional certifications** for enhanced procedural authority (e.g., prescribing, IV therapy, minor surgery).

### This standardized, accredited training supports:

- Diagnostic authority
- Laboratory ordering and interpretation
- Prescribing (where authorized)
- Injection and IV therapy
- Minor procedures
- Chronic disease management
- Preventive and lifestyle-based care

Naturopathic doctors across Canada enter practice through a **uniform, accredited, competency-based training pathway** that supports safe, responsible, and modern scope of practice in regulated jurisdictions.



## CONNECT WITH THE CAND

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