

Quality Assurance Changes and Naturopathic Doctors

February 2026

Overview

The College of Complementary Health Professionals of BC has [announced plans](#) to introduce a single, unified Quality Assurance Program (QAP) across all regulated professions under its authority, as part of the transition to the Health Professions and Occupations Act.

This announcement has raised understandable questions among health professionals and the public. At this stage, it is important to distinguish clearly between what has been confirmed and what remains under development.

What is settled

- Scopes of practice, prescribing authority, and restricted activities are established in legislation and regulation and are not being changed through the quality assurance process.
- Profession-specific quality assurance programs will conclude as the College transitions to a unified framework.
- [Naturopathic certifications are being removed](#) under the new bylaws, with pharmaceutical prescribing remaining an exception.
- The College has indicated that licensees are expected to continue engaging in professional development during this transition period.
- The College has also signaled an intention to introduce learning-based transition activities, beginning with a Professional Standards quiz planned for fall 2026.

What is still being developed

- The structure and detailed requirements of the unified Quality Assurance Program.
- How differences in scope of practice, clinical responsibility, and risk will be reflected within a harmonized framework.
- How higher-risk activities, such as prescribing medications and managing complex clinical cases, will be addressed in practice.
- These details are central to how quality assurance functions in the public interest and have not yet been fully articulated.

Why careful implementation is important

Quality assurance is a key public-protection mechanism. For it to be effective, it must reflect differences in scope, complexity, and clinical risk across professions.

A harmonized administrative approach may improve consistency and efficiency, but quality assurance must still reflect differences in scope and practice responsibilities across professions. Effective frameworks are those that are flexible enough to align with the varied ways regulated health professionals deliver care, rather than relying on uniform expectations that may not fit all practice contexts.

The concern at this stage is not that scopes of practice are being reduced, but that implementation details will determine whether quality assurance meaningfully reflects the realities of different types of healthcare practice.

Continuing education during the transition

During periods of regulatory change, continuing education plays an especially important role in supporting patient safety and professional accountability.

While the unified Quality Assurance Program is still being developed, expectations around competence, ethical practice, and standards-informed care remain in place. The removal of profession-specific certifications does not lower expectations of competence. Instead, it places *greater* emphasis on how competence is demonstrated and maintained over time.

Ongoing education supports practitioners in staying current, exercising sound professional judgment, and delivering safe, effective care, particularly in higher-risk areas such as prescribing and complex clinical decision-making.

BCND's role

BC Naturopathic Doctors supports regulatory approaches that strengthen public protection and reflect the realities of naturopathic practice.

BCND will continue to:

- Engage with the College as quality assurance details are developed,
- Advocate for approaches that are risk-based and scope-appropriate,
- Support continuing education and professional competence during the transition and beyond,
- Raise concerns where quality assurance frameworks risk weakening, rather than strengthening, patient safety.

Regulatory transitions are complex, and questions at this stage are both normal and appropriate. BCND's role is to represent and support naturopathic doctors while advocating for quality assurance approaches that are clear, proportionate, and appropriate to the scope and responsibilities of the profession.