



## College of Homeopaths of Ontario

163 Queen Street East, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5A 1S1

TEL 416-862-4780 OR 1-844-862-4780

FAX 416-874-4077

www.collegeofhomeopaths.on.ca

## STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

<b>NAME:</b>	INTER-PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION
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*Note to Readers: In the event of any inconsistency between this document and the legislation that affects homeopathic practice, the legislation governs.*

*College publications contain practice parameters and standards which should be considered by all Ontario homeopaths in the care of their patients and in the practice of the profession. College publications are developed in consultation with the profession and describe current professional expectations. It is important to note that these College publications may be used by the College or other bodies in determining whether appropriate standards of practice and professional responsibilities have been maintained.*

### POLICY

Registrants of the College of Homeopaths of Ontario are expected to practice within their individual scope of practice based on their level of competence, and to collaborate, when appropriate and with consent, in the best interest of the patient.

### INTENT

The intent of this standard is to provide guidance to College of Homeopaths of Ontario Registrants and the public with respect to effective collaboration with other health care professionals.

### PREAMBLE

In Ontario, there is an increasing expectation that health care professionals will work together to provide the best possible care for patients.

### DESCRIPTION OF GUIDELINE

#### A. Referral to other health professionals

The Registrant respects the principles of inter-professional care and shall make reasonable attempts, with the patient's consent, to collaborate. In doing so, he or she shall:

1. Practise within the scope of practice of the profession and in accordance with their knowledge, skill and judgment;<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Every homeopath has a unique scope of practice, which is determined by the homeopath's clinical competence, the patients the homeopaths cares for, the treatments provided and the practice environment. A homeopath's ability to perform competently in his or her scope of practice is determined by the homeopath's knowledge, skills and judgment, which are developed through training and experience in that scope of practice. Further information about scope of practice is contained in the College's Standard on Scope of Practice.



2. Understand and respect the scope of practice, roles and expertise of other health professionals and work collaboratively in the best interest of the patient;
3. Consult with another health care professional when encountering patient care situations beyond their scope of practice;
4. Communicate with other health care professionals where appropriate and consult with another health care professional upon the explicit request of a patient;
5. Maintain patient confidentiality and privacy in the provision of care;
6. Provide to the collaborating health professional all relevant clinical information<sup>2</sup>;
7. Request documentation from the collaborating health professionals throughout the period of consultation and upon completion of the consultation. Such documentation may include test results, diagnoses, and recommended treatment options; and
8. Keep record, in the patient file, of all communications with other health care providers. Documentation shall be in accordance with the College's Standard on Record Keeping.

### **B. Providing a professional consultation**

The Registrant offers a considered, ethic, honest and professional opinion when requested by another health professional to provide consultation on patient care. In doing so, the registrant shall:

1. Provide professional communication including follow-up on referral with information and potential options for the patient's care. If the Registrant has a different opinion from the referring provider but the initial advice is also reasonable, the Registrant has an obligation to make this clear to the patient;
2. Conduct him/her self in a professional, collaborative and collegial manner in the best interest of the patient, and avoid criticizing another health professional's opinion, treatment or fees;
3. Avoid embarking upon any treatment, with the exception of emergency treatment, outside the realm of their scope, or that is not requested by the referring health professional without prior consultation with that health professional; and
4. Provide the referring professional with documentation and relevant information which may include a homeopathic assessment and recommended treatment plans, as appropriate.

### **RELEVANT COMPETENCIES & PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

*Note to Readers: The performance indicators listed below each competency are examples of the possible indicators which demonstrate performance consistent with the competency. The list of performance indicators is not exhaustive. For complete information please refer to College documents *Competency Profile for Entry-to-Practice Homeopaths Practising in Ontario* (February 27, 2012) and *Performance Indicators* (March 2012).*

- 1.7 Collaborate with colleagues, other health-care practitioners and community resources to facilitate patient care.

#### **PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

1. Explain the value of collaborating with colleagues and other health-care professionals.
2. Recognize opportunities for shared decision-making while maintaining patient confidentiality.
3. Describe approaches to intraprofessional and interprofessional collaboration.
4. Establish intraprofessional and interprofessional collaboration in practice.

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<sup>2</sup> Relevant report fees may be charged in accordance with the profession's fee schedule and in the manner outlined in the College's Standard of Practice on Fees and Billing.



- 1.10 Recognize the limitation of their own individual experiences and knowledge, and seek guidance from and collaborate with experienced professionals. (S)  
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
1. Identify personal limitations as they relate to practice.
  2. Identify situations where collaboration with intraprofessionals and interprofessionals is appropriate.
- 2.17 Recognize the signs and symptoms of potentially serious or life-threatening conditions to determine whether referral to other health-care professionals or agencies is required. (S)  
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
1. Identify common signs and symptoms of conditions that could pose serious or life-threatening risk to health (e.g., seizures, heart attack, shock).
  2. Offer appropriate support for serious or life-threatening conditions (e.g., CPR, first aid, 911, referral to other health-care professionals).
- 2.18 Identify disease processes and their manifestations to recognize a conventional diagnosis and understand its Implication for the purpose of homeopathic assessment, prognosis, treatment and potential referral.  
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
1. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of disease processes and their manifestations (e.g., pathophysiology).
  2. Identify common terminologies and abbreviations frequently used in diagnosis.
  3. Recognize common diagnoses from other health-care professionals.
  4. Demonstrate how other health-care diagnoses may impact homeopathic assessments.
  5. Seek current information related to conventional diagnoses when necessary.
- 2.46 Recommend referral and/or collaborate with other health-care practitioners, as required, to provide optimal care to the patient. (S) (13)  
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
1. Collaborate and refer in the best interest of the patient.

## DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this guideline, the following definitions apply:

### Collaboration

Collaboration means working with one or more member of a health care team, each of whom makes a unique contribution to patient care from within the limits of his or her scope of practice.

### Health Care Professional

A health care professional is recognized in the Province of Ontario through the regulation of his or her profession under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (RHPA) and their profession specific act as named under the RHPA.

### Homeopath

“Homeopath” means a registrant of the College of Homeopaths of Ontario.

### Registrant

A Registrant is a member of the College of Homeopaths of Ontario.



## LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

*Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, S.O. 1991, CHAPTER 18, s. 27*

*Homeopathy Act, 2007, Ontario Regulation 32/13 Quality Assurance*

*Homeopathy Act, 2007, Ontario Regulation 315/12 Professional Misconduct* (Note: This regulation is not yet in force. It comes into force on the day named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor.):

5. Giving information about a patient to a person other than the patient or the patient's authorized representative except with the consent of the patient or the authorized representative or as required or authorized by law.
7. Recommending or providing treatment that the member knows or ought to know is unnecessary or ineffective.
8. Attempting to treat a condition that the member knows or ought to know he or she does not have the knowledge, skills or judgment to treat.
50. Failing to make reasonable attempts to collaborate with the patient's other relevant health care providers on the care of the patient where such collaboration is necessary for the patient's health, unless the patient refuses to consent to the collaboration. O. Reg. 315/12, s. 1.

*Regulatory Health Professions Act, 1991*

Minimum requirements for quality assurance program

80.1 A quality assurance program prescribed under section 80 shall include,

- (a) continuing education or professional development designed to,
  - (i) promote continuing competence and continuing quality improvement among the members,

Note: On a day to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor, clause (a) is amended by adding the following subclause:

(i.1) promote interprofessional collaboration,

See: 2009, c. 26, ss. 24 (14), 27 (2).

## RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

#5 Standard of Practice on Accepting Delegation of a Controlled Act

#7 Standard of Practice on Discounting Professional Services and Refusing Treatment

## SOURCE

Transitional Council of the College of Naturopaths of Ontario