



College of Homeopaths of Ontario

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STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

TITLE:	HOMEOPATHIC PRESCRIPTION
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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 are required to practise within the scope of practice set out in the Homeopathy Act, 2007, and abide by the Natural Health Products Regulation when prescribing homeopathic medicines¹ and health products to patients.

INTENT

The intent of this standard is to provide guidance to registrants and the public about the College of Homeopaths of Ontario (the "CHO") expectations concerning safe, ethical and competent homeopathic prescription within the homeopathic scope of practice.

DESCRIPTION OF STANDARD

1. Before writing a homeopathic prescription, the Registrant will act in accordance with the minimum level of competencies and standards of the profession, to:
 - 1.1 Assess the patient.
 - 1.2 Document symptoms and/or conditions being treated.
 - 1.3 Review the patient's medication history.
 - 1.4 Select medicine that will have a desired effect based on the differential diagnosis.
 - 1.5 Select administration of medicine including:
 - 1.5.1 Potency
 - 1.5.2 Delivery mechanism

¹ Medicine: Refers to homeopathic medicine, homeopathic remedy, homeopathic preparation and homeopathic drug as per the Evidence for Homeopathic Medicines Guidance Document (Health Canada, 2007) as well as products that the homeopath may compound, dispense or recommend for the individual use of the patient but does not constitute a "drug" as that term is defined in the *Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act*.



2. The Registrant who writes a homeopathic prescription:
 - 2.1 Complies with federal and provincial legislation.
 - 2.2 Provides a written prescription.
 - 2.3 Provides a verbal prescription in emergency situations only and documents the verbal order as soon as possible.
 - 2.4 Documents the medicine prescribed in the patient record.
 - 2.5 Provides relevant information about medicines, including but not limited to risks, contraindications, and proper usage, to the patient and/or authorized patient representative.
3. A homeopathic prescription provided to a patient includes:
 - 3.1 Date.
 - 3.2 Patient's name.
 - 3.3 Medicine's chemical name or scientific binomial, strength, dose and quantity to be dispensed.
 - 3.4 Directions for use including the administration route, frequency, duration and any special instructions.
 - 3.5 Registrant's name, address, signature, and CHO registration number.
4. After providing a homeopathic prescription to the patient, the Registrant:
 - 4.1 Monitors and documents the patient's response to the treatment through follow-up visit and consultation.
 - 4.2 Monitors, documents and reports adverse reactions.
 - 4.3 Continues treatment, adjusts dosage or discontinues the treatment as appropriate.
 - 4.4 Consults with an appropriate health care professional when the patient's response to the treatment is other than the registrant anticipated.
 - 4.5 With written consent, and as appropriate, informs other registrants of the patient's health care team on progress in the patient's condition.
5. Record Keeping
In addition to the College's Guideline on Record Keeping and Privacy of Information Registrants will make specific notations regarding the dispensing of substances or products.

The Registrant's records the following into the patient chart:

- 5.1 Name and strength of all medicines dispensed;
- 5.2 Dosage and frequency;
- 5.3 Dispensing date.
- 5.4 Rationale for all recommendations.

RELEVANT COMPETENCIES AND 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).*

- 2.37. Select suitable medicine or sequence of medicines to restore/maintain optimal health and vitality. (K, S)
RELEVANT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



1. Select medicine that will have a desired effect based on the differential diagnosis.
 2. Select subsequent medicine based on the outcome of the previous medication and the current differential diagnosis when necessary.
- 2.38 Select administration of medicine including:
- a. Homeopathic potency (e.g., MT, X, D, C, Q or LM); (K)
RELEVANT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
 1. Determine case-specific potency.
 - b. Posology (e.g., dosage); and (K)
RELEVANT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
 1. Determine case-specific posology.
 - c. Delivery mechanism (e.g., dry, liquid, injectable when or if approved in the scope of practice). (K)
RELEVANT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
 1. Select appropriate delivery mechanism.

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this standard the following definitions apply:

Dispensing

“Dispensing” means to provide medicines or devices for specific treatments. This includes the packaging, labeling and security necessary to safeguard the substances or devices provided. Dispensing includes both technical and cognitive components performed by Registrants.

Homeopath

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

Medicine

“Medicine” refers to homeopathic medicine, homeopathic remedy, homeopathic preparation and homeopathic drug as per the Evidence for Homeopathic Medicines Guidance Document (Health Canada, 2007) as well as products that the Registrant may compound, dispense or recommend for the individual use of the patient.

Registrant

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

Scope of Practice

“Scope of Practice” encompasses the services that its practitioners are educated, competent and authorized to provide. (National Physiotherapy Advisory Group, 2009) In the *Homeopathy Act, 2007* a registrant’s scope of practice is defined as “the assessment of body system disorders and treatment using homeopathic techniques to promote, maintain or restore health.”



Substances

“Substances” may include, but are not limited to, raw materials, ingredients and vehicles, medicinal and non-medicinal, homeopathic tinctures, powders, fluid/solid extracts, base creams, salves, and ointments, blank homeopathic pellets, alcohol.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

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.):

4. Failing to reply appropriately to a reasonable request by a patient or a patient’s authorized representative for information respecting a homeopathic assessment or treatment provided or recommended by the member.
7. Recommending or providing treatment that the member knows or ought to know is unnecessary or ineffective.
23. Failing to keep records in accordance with the standards of the profession.

Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991

Controlled acts restricted

27. (1) No person shall perform a controlled act set out in subsection (2) in the course of providing health care services to an individual unless,
 - (a) the person is a member authorized by a health profession Act to perform the controlled act; or
 - (b) the performance of the controlled act has been delegated to the person by a member described in clause (a). 1991, c. 18, s. 27 (1); 1998, c. 18, Sched. G, s. 6.

Controlled acts

(2) A “controlled act” is any one of the following done with respect to an individual:

8. Prescribing, dispensing, selling or compounding a drug as defined in the *Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act*, or supervising the part of a pharmacy where such drugs are kept.

The controlled act of “Prescribing, dispensing, selling or compounding a drug” is assigned to the Registrants of the following professions:

- College of Chiropractors of Ontario
- College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario (limited scope)
- College of Midwives of Ontario (limited scope)
- College of Optometrists of Ontario (limited scope)
- Ontario College of Pharmacists (limited scope)
- College of Nurses of Ontario, Nurse Practitioners
- College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario
- Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario
- College of Naturopaths of Ontario (once proclaimed)

Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act (R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER H.4)

Last amendment: 2009, c. 33, Sched. 6, s. 51.

“drug” means any substance or preparation containing any substance,

- (a) manufactured, sold or represented for use in,



- (i) the diagnosis, treatment, mitigation or prevention of a disease, disorder, abnormal physical or mental state or the symptoms thereof, in humans, animals or fowl, or
- (ii) restoring, correcting or modifying functions in humans, animals or fowl,
- (b) referred to in Schedule I, II or III,
- (c) listed in a publication named by the regulations, or
- (d) named in the regulations,

but does not include,

- (e) any substance or preparation referred to in clause (a), (b), (c) or (d) manufactured, offered for sale or sold as, or as part of, a food, drink or cosmetic,
- (f) any “natural health product” as defined from time to time by the *Natural Health Products Regulations* under the *Food and Drugs Act (Canada)*, unless the product is a substance that is identified in the regulations as being a drug for the purposes of this Act despite this clause, either specifically or by its membership in a class or its listing or identification in a publication,
- (g) a substance or preparation named in Schedule U,
- (h) a substance or preparation listed in a publication named by the regulations, or
- (i) a substance or preparation that the regulations provide is not a drug: (“médicament”)

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- #3 Standard of Practice on Compounding
- #14 Standard of Practice on Principles of Professional Ethics
- #1 Guideline on Record Keeping and Privacy of Information
- #3 Guideline on Practice Inter-professional Collaboration
- #1 Interpretative Guide on Professional Conflict of Interest

SOURCE

Transitional Council of the College of Naturopaths of Ontario