



College of Homeopaths of Ontario

163 Queen Street East, 4th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5A 1S1

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

FAX 416-874-4077

www.collegeofhomeopaths.on.ca

STANDARD AND GUIDELINES

TITLE:	STANDARD ON CONCURRENT TREATMENT
DOC #:	Standard 4
STATUS:	Approved by Council
CIRCULATION DATE:	March – June 2013
REVISED:	June 2013
APPROVAL DATE:	July 29, 2013

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

A Registrant will provide concurrent care only when, in his or her professional judgment, the treatment is required, appropriate and compatible with treatment approach of the other treating professional. The concurrent care must be provided in the best interest of the patient and shall not intentionally put the patient in a situation of conflict. Care must not constitute an unethical or inefficient use of patient or health care resources.

INTENT

The intent of this standard is to provide guidance to Registrants and the public about the expectations of the College of Homeopaths of Ontario (the "CHO" or the College) concerning concurrent treatment to ensure care is provided in the best interests of the patient.

PREAMBLE

The College recognizes that:

- One of the underlying principles of the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (RHPA) is to permit the public to exercise free choice of health care provider within a range of safe options.
- Concurrent treatment of a patient by a Registrant and another health care professional, including another Homeopath, may be beneficial. However, unless concurrent treatment is provided appropriately, concerns such as the following may arise:
 - The treatments provided to the patient for the same or related conditions may inadvertently counteract each other;
 - Conflicting advice and/or information may be provided to the patient;



- The Registrant may not be able to determine the impact of his or her treatment intervention on the patient; and
- The concurrent treatment may result in an unethical or inefficient use of patient or health care resources.
- Concurrent treatment is optimal when there is collaboration among health care providers working in the best interest of the patient with the consent of the patient.

DESCRIPTION OF STANDARD

A Registrant demonstrates the standard by:

1. Providing concurrent treatment in circumstances where the treatment is:
 - i. Appropriate to the needs of the patient.
 - ii. Complementary to the treatment provided by the other health care professional.
 - iii. Provided following consultation with the other health care professional.
 - iv. Providing information for the patient to made an informed decision.
2. Collaborating with other health care professionals providing concurrent treatment where there may be an overlapping scope of practice and similar patient care objectives. Collaboration and communications may occur only with the patient's consent.
3. Clearly communicating to the patient the range of treatment options available.
4. Not providing concurrent treatment in circumstances where the homeopathic services are an unethical or inefficient use of patient or health care resources.
5. Not commenting on other health professionals' qualifications or services other than to provide professional opinions that are necessary in the circumstances.
6. When working in collaboration with other health care professionals providing clear communication, with the patient's consent, to concurrent health care professionals on the course of treatment and treatment outcome.

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).*

- 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.



- 2.21 Recognize when homeopathic treatment can complement, interact and/or interfere with other health care that the patient is receiving.
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the scope of practice of other health-care professions.
 2. Recognize when homeopathic treatment can complement, interact or interfere with other health-care treatment.
- 2.22 Recognize integrative modalities that may complement homeopathic treatment in improving patient outcome.
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
1. Identify circumstances when other modalities can complement homeopathy.
- 2.46 Recommend referral and/or collaborate with other health-care practitioners, as required, to provide optimal care to the patient. (S)
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
1. Collaborate and refer in the best interest of the patient.
- 3.4 Respect patients' right to choose to integrate other therapeutic modalities in combination with homeopathic treatment.
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
1. Support of informed decision-making.
 2. Support patient's choice to seek care from other healthcare professionals.

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this standard the following definitions apply:

Collaboration

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.

Concurrent Treatment

The circumstance where more than one health care professional is administering or applying remedies, including medical, surgical or other therapies, to a patient for the same or a related disease or injury. The circumstance where a patient may be receiving care from multiple health care professionals for different diseases or injuries is not considered to be concurrent care.

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

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.):

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.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

#10 Standard of Practice Informed Consent

#16 Standard of Practice on Therapeutic Relationships and Professional Boundaries

#3 Guideline on Interprofessional Collaboration

#5 Guideline on Patient Communication and Physical Examination

SOURCE

College of Physiotherapists of Ontario, February 2005