



College of Homeopaths of Ontario

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STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

TITLE:	ACCEPTING DELEGATION OF A CONTROLLED ACT
DOC #:	Standard 5
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

The College of Homeopaths of Ontario allows Registrants to accept the delegation of a controlled act if he or she has gained the knowledge, skills and judgment necessary to perform the act. Informed consent must be obtained from the patient or his/her representative in order to perform the controlled act.

INTENT

The intent of this standard is to provide guidance to Registrants about the College of Homeopaths of Ontario's expectations concerning accepting delegation of a controlled act.

DESCRIPTION OF STANDARD

Delegation is the provision within the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* that enables the transfer of ability to perform a controlled act to a person who has gained the knowledge, skills and judgment necessary to perform the act and manage the outcomes of doing so for the patient.

The College of Homeopaths of Ontario does not limit homeopaths from accepting delegation of controlled acts from regulated healthcare professionals who have the authority to perform controlled acts through the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*.

An order or delegation may be given either orally or in writing; however, where an order is given orally, details of the order shall be written into the patient's records maintained in the Registrant's office in accordance with the College's Guideline on Record Keeping and Privacy of Information. If the order is given in writing, a written notation should be recorded in the patient's chart and a copy of the order shall also be placed in the patient's chart.



The patient must be informed that the Registrant is acting on a written or verbal order or delegation from another health care professional authorized to perform the controlled act. In accordance with the College's Standard of Practice of Informed Consent, the patient must be given the opportunity to provide their expressed informed consent prior to the Registrant proceeding with the order.

The delegator is responsible for the quality of care received by the patient. Both the delegator and the Homeopath are responsible for getting informed consent from the patient.

In keeping with the College's Standard of Practice on Inter-professional Collaboration the Registrant should communicate with other members of the health care team in the best interests of the patient.

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this standard the following definitions apply:

Controlled Act

"Controlled act" means any restricted diagnostic or therapeutic activity under the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991 that is considered potentially harmful if performed by an unqualified person."¹

Delegate

"Delegate" means a formal process by which a regulated health care professional who has the legal authority and competence to perform a procedure under one of the controlled acts transfers that ability to others, under certain conditions.

Directive

"Directive" means an order for a procedure or series of procedures that may be implemented for a number of patients when specific conditions are met and specific circumstances exist. A directive is always written by a regulated health care professional who has the legislative authority to order—and the ultimate responsibility for—the procedure.

Homeopath

"Homeopath" means a registrant of the College of Homeopaths of Ontario.

Order

"Order" means an authorization or instruction for a procedure, treatment, or intervention to be provided to, or performed for, a patient. An order is usually written (for example, in the health record, prescription or requisition); however, it can also be verbal (for example, during an emergency situation), or by telephone (for example, when the regulated health care professional is not physically present). Orders involve the cognitive aspects of assessing and diagnosing patients to determine that the procedure, treatment, or intervention is warranted.

Registrant

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

¹ College of Nurses of Ontario, Practice Standard, Nurse Practitioners, page 14.



LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, S.O. 1991, CHAPTER 18, s. 27(2)

Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, S.O. 1991, CHAPTER 18, Sched. 2, s. 95 (1)(g)

RELATED STANDARDS

#10 Standard of Practice on Informed Consent

#15 Standard of Practice on Scope of Practice

#1 Guideline on Record Keeping and Privacy of Information

#3 Guideline on Inter-professional Collaboration

SOURCE

College of Dietitians of Ontario

College of Nurses of Ontario