

Purpose

To establish a policy for the members practice with respect to vaccinations

Definition

Vaccination: Introduction of a preparation of a live attenuated organism, a living virulent organism, or a killed microorganism, intended to induce a response in the immune system to provide immunity against that organism.

General

Members are not permitted to vaccinate (prescribe and administer) vaccinations to patients. Vaccinations may be administered by Medical Doctors, Nurses, and Pharmacists in Manitoba. As a result, when asked by a patient about vaccinations, members shall inform the patient that vaccinations are outside of the scope of naturopathic practice and that the patient should consult with the appropriate health professional.

Anti-vaccination marketing or counselling (printed or provided verbally) is therefore prohibited.

Referral

In Manitoba physicians, public health nurses, pharmacists, physician assistants, nurses and nurse practitioners administer vaccines in public health offices, nursing stations, doctor's offices, pharmacies, QuickCare Clinics and ACCESS Centres. Members may also refer the patient back to their family doctor if they already have one.

Patient's Right to Choose

Manitoba's health care plan provides individuals with the right to choose or deny a treatment. A patient can choose to vaccinate themselves and/or their children, or not to.

The member must also assure the patient that his/her decision to proceed or not proceed with a vaccination program will not have any impact (negative or positive) on their Naturopath Doctor-patient relationship.

Record Keeping

A member shall record in the patient record a notation of the discussion about vaccinations and the details of the referral, either generally to another regulated health practitioner or to a specific practitioner. Where a patient informs a member of their vaccination status, this too will be recorded in the patient record.

No Alternatives

There are no known alternatives to vaccinations. Members cannot advertise, offer, promote or recommend that they have an alternative to vaccinations. Phrases that are prohibited but not limited to are "flu shot alternative", "natural flu shot", "homeopathic vaccinations", "alternative vaccinations" and "natural vaccinations".

Nosodes: Under Health Canada rules, nosodes cannot be positioned as an alternative to a vaccine although a member can recommend nosodes as part of a broader treatment plan

Failure to Comply

Members are reminded that they may be the subject of an inquiry, complaint or review concerning the provision of naturopathic services or discussions related to general health-related questions from patients.