

New Laws Affecting the Practice of Naturopathic Medicine Effective January 1, 2011:

Below is a synopsis of changes to the Naturopathic Doctors Act (Business and Professions Code) and the Health and Safety Code pertaining to the practice of naturopathic medicine by licensed naturopathic doctors and naturopathic assistants in California. The applicable statutes will appear on the web site after January 1, 2011.

SB 1050, Yee

- Makes the Naturopathic Medicine Committee (Committee) solely responsible for implementation of the Naturopathic Doctor's Act. [Business & Professions Code (B & P) Section 3620]
- Changes the composition of the Committee to include 5 licensed naturopathic doctors (NDs), 2 licensed MDs, and 2 public members. (B & P Section 3621)
- Authorizes the Committee to appoint an executive officer and other officers and employees as necessary. [B & P Section 3621 (e) and 3626]
- Removes the two ND positions from the Osteopathic Medical Board.

SB 1246, Negrete McLeod

- Adds licensed naturopathic doctors (NDs) to the category of persons who may act as laboratory director and perform clinical laboratory tests or exams that are classified as waived (CLIA waived tests). (B & P Section 1206.5)
- Authorizes a naturopathic assistant (NA) to perform certain medical procedures and technical support services under the supervision of a licensed naturopathic doctor. (B & P Section 1209)
- Defines "naturopathic assistant" as a person who may be unlicensed, performs technical and support services for a licensed ND [B & P Section 3613 (g)] and has had a minimum number of hours of appropriate training as established by the Medical Board of California*. (B & P Section 2070)
- Requires that a written order or standing order prepared by a supervising ND shall be placed in the patient's medical records. [B & P Section 3613 (i)]
- Requires the supervising ND be physically present in the treatment facility at the time NA services are performed. [B & P Section 3613 (j)]
- Naturopathic assistants may perform the following: (B & P Section 3640.2)
 1. Administer medication by intradermal, subcutaneous, or intramuscular injections
 2. Perform skin tests
 3. Perform venipuncture or skin puncture in order to draw blood
 4. Administer medications orally, sublingually, topically, vaginally, rectally, or by inhalation, as well as give medication to patients
 5. Apply & remove bandages
 6. Collect specimens for testing
 7. Collect and record patient data including blood pressure and pulse
 8. Perform simple lab and screening tests customarily performed in a medical office

* Medical Board of California training requirements are as follows:

1. 10 clock hours of training in administering injections and performing skin tests, and/or
2. 10 clock hours of training in venipuncture and skin puncture for the purpose of withdrawing blood, and
3. Satisfactory performance by the trainee of at least 10 each of intramuscular, subcutaneous, and intradermal injections and 10 skin tests, and/or at least 10 venipuncture and 10 skin punctures.
4. For those administering medicine by inhalation, 10 clock hours of training in administering medical by inhalation.

Training shall include instruction and demonstration in:

- pertinent anatomy and physiology appropriate to the procedures
- choice of equipment

- proper technique including sterile technique
- hazards and complications
- patient care following treatment or tests
- emergency procedures
- California law and regulations for naturopathic assistants