



BUREAU OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE
 1625 North Market Blvd., Suite S-209
 Sacramento, CA 95834
 (916) 574-7991 – Office / (916) 574-8645 - FAX



NATUROPATHIC FORMULARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
 February 26, 2006

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS
 PRESENT:**

Peter Wannigman, Naturopathic Doctor
 (Chairman)
 Soram Khalsa, Medical Doctor
 (Vice-Chairman)
 Cynthia Watson, Medical Doctor
 Mary Hardy, Medical Doctor
 Larry Woodhouse, Pharmacist
 Michael Traub, Naturopathic Doctor
 Paul Mittman, Naturopathic Doctor
 Arthur Presser, Pharmacist

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS
 ABSENT:**

Trevor Cates, Naturopathic Doctor

STAFF PRESENT:

Tonya Blood
 Linda Brown

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Wannigman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared. The committee welcomed Tonya Blood, who was recently appointed Bureau Chief.

II. Approval of the January 15, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Wannigman requested the minutes be changed to read "Research did not identify any cases of malpractice litigation involving prescribing rights." Linda requested clarification of the ND who made public comment at the end of the meeting. Dr. Hardy moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Dr. Khalsa seconded. Roll call was taken and the minutes were approved as amended.

III. Chairpersons Report

Dr. Wannigman reported that he and Dr. Khalsa participated by teleconference at the Advisory Council meeting on January 29, 2006, and gave the Advisory Council an update on what the Formulary Committee has been working on.

Dr. Wannigman stated that the committee had approved documents for the recommendation of IV authority for naturopathic doctors. Now the work to be done is in prescribing authority.

There was discussion regarding whether the committee would have a draft ready to present to the Advisory Council for their May 21 meeting. There was discussion regarding whether or not the Formulary Committee report needed to have approval of the Advisory Council and if the report would be ready for May, or for a final presentation in October. Dr. Hardy expressed that she thought it was desirable and politically correct to have the Advisory Council on board with the report.

Dr. Wannigman spoke about what he viewed as the original intent of SB 907—that NDs would be able to independently prescribe what is listed in B&PC 3640(c)(1) through any route of administration. That was the intent of the law and no one anticipated the confusion and gray areas that have since arisen. Dr. Hardy commented that there is a conflict in the law and the lack of clarity is with the route of administration. Dr. Khalsa stated that the law needed to be cleaned up so that any “idiot” could understand it. All were in agreement.

Dr. Wannigman asked Tonya to clarify the path of the report once it is written. Tonya stated that the report would go to the Legislative Division of DCA and to the Legal Division. It would then go to the DCA Director, the State and Consumer Services Agency and then the Governor. Then the report would be submitted to the Legislature. It was clarified that it was a report, and not a legislative bill. The report is not legislation and will not be heard in the Legislature. It was also clarified that DCA would not carry any legislation to expand scope of practice. If these recommendations are to become legislation, they would have to be sponsored by the CNDA or another interested group who would attempt to find a legislator to author the bill on their behalf.

To Do List:

IV route needs to be clarified.

Develop a Rx formulary.

Develop a training program that would justify NDs independent prescribing.

Identify the roadblocks that make MD supervision untenable.

- Malpractice insurance issues.
- Lack of MDs with knowledge in ND training and/or willingness to supervise.
- Clinical training.

Review safety in other states.

Write legislative report.

IV. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

After a brief discussion, Dr. Wannigman was re-elected as Chair of the Committee, and Dr. Khalsa was re-elected as Vice-Chair.

V. Clarification of Scope of Practice

Tabled.

VI. Discussion and Review of Findings and Recommendations for Prescribing and Furnishing Authority for a Naturopathic Doctor – Business and Professions Code, Section 3627(a)(b)(c)(d)

The committee reviewed the legislative mandate for the committee and the committee's report. Linda stated that the report needs findings to back up the recommendations. There was discussion that the recommendations should not be based on the malpractice situation, but should be based on a review of the education and training of NDs and that the committee's recommendations should be safe for the consumer.

Linda also requested a brief professional biography from each of the committee members. It should be emailed to Linda at the Bureau.

There was a discussion that the committee needed to review the pharmacology courses taught at the approved school. The amount of hours required ranges from 42 at one of the Canadian Schools to 110 at Southwest College. California requires 48 hours before issuing a furnishing number to a naturopathic doctor.

VII. Discussion and Review of Approved IV Biologicals

The list of IV biologicals that had previously been approved was revised. After much discussion, the following substances were removed from the approved list:

adrenal	glycerin	liver	thymus
glycolic acid	lactic acid	l-carnosine	

Roll call vote was taken and the revisions were approved.

VIII. Review of Arizona's Required Postgraduate Pharmacology Course

The committee reviewed the Arizona statute requiring a 60-hour pharmacology course. As of January 1, 2005 everyone had to complete board-approved course and examination as a condition of being licensed. Anyone who was already licensed also had to complete the course and exam, otherwise they would not have prescribing privileges. It was discussed that Arizona NDs are able to independently prescribe with the exception of:

- 1) Intravenous medications (except vitamins, chelation therapy, and drugs used in emergency resuscitation and stabilization, which are allowed).
- 2) Schedule I and II controlled substances (except morphine is allowed).
- 3) Cancer chemotherapeutics classified as legend drugs.
- 4) Antipsychotics.

There was discussion as to why NDs go to a naturopathic medical school, and then want to prescribe drugs. NDs need to be able to treat common maladies without continuously referring the patients to an MD. It was stated that even in Arizona where NDs have the broadest prescribing rights, the vast majority of NDs write very few prescriptions. Dr. Mittman stated that the most common prescriptions written are probably IV nutrients, hormones, and antibiotics.

There was a brief discussion regarding an exclusionary formulary, and maybe there could be a tiered approach where those with more clinical experience would have more prescribing rights, but it was also said that would make it more difficult for pharmacies.

It was stated that naturopathic doctors as a group are probably more concerned about potential adverse effects and toxicity of drugs than physicians partly because they use them less and there is a philosophy that they are wary of them. Patients are monitored very closely when on any medication.

It is up to the committee to decipher what is appropriate prescribing for NDs and how do you define it in a way that's clear to the pharmacists, the public, and has an appropriate training component for the ND community.

IX. Review of Other States' Formulary Laws

The committee members each received a folder of formulary laws from other states. The documents were briefly reviewed, and it was stated that the folder should be available for review at future meetings.

There was a discussion of exclusionary formulary (e.g. Arizona) vs. inclusionary formulary (e.g. Oregon). It was stated that Craig Runbeck, Executive Director of the Arizona board, would be a great resource for the committee.

X. Discussion/Approval of Pharmaceutical Formulary for Recommendation

The committee discussed an exclusionary list that Dr. Wannigman had provided to the committee a few months back. Dr. Wannigman asked the committee to review the list and to note any other exclusions they want on the list.

XI. Future Meeting Dates

April 2, 2006, 11:00 a.m.

May 7, 2006, 10:00 a.m. (tentative)

XII. Public Comments

Monique Mazza, ND, legislative liaison for the California Naturopathic Doctors Association, spoke to the need for a clarification of the scope of practice and asked if they could get assistance in crafting legislation. Tonya said that the Bureau must remain completely neutral, and that the Bureau's focus must be consumer protection.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.