



## BC Approves Changes to Scope of Practice for NDs

The BC Minister of Health approved revisions to the regulation governing NDs on April 9, 2009 to authorize a list of “restricted activities” that secures and expands the scope of practice for NDs. This list of restricted activities awarded to NDs includes prescribing authority for the full range of prescription drugs used in primary care. NDs in BC will be able to prescribe all drugs except those which will be listed on a schedule of exclusions, primarily narcotics, chemotherapy drugs and drugs normally used by specialists. The approved regulation including schedule of exclusions can be found here:

[http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/leg/pdfs/BC\\_Reg\\_156\\_2009.pdf](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/leg/pdfs/BC_Reg_156_2009.pdf)

Prescribing authority will come into effect following a transition period to allow the College to develop necessary standards, limits and conditions, and to develop and implement upgrade training required for a practitioner to be authorized to prescribe.

These changes are the first to the scope of practice in BC in over 50 years, and have been developed by the College of Naturopathic Physicians of British Columbia in recognition of the education and skills of NDs and the importance of full scope of practice in meeting the needs of patients.

In making this announcement, the BC Minister of Health George Abbott said: “Expanding the role of naturopathic physicians allows BC’s health system to offer more options for patients. British Columbians made it clear during the Conversation on Health that they want increased choice and better access to health services and today we are meeting our 2008 throne speech commitment to expand the scope of practice for these professions.”

For more information on prescribing authority for Ontario NDs, please contact Alison Dantas, CEO of the OAND at 416-233-2001x 27 or [adantas@oand.org](mailto:adantas@oand.org). For more information on prescribing in British Columbia, please contact Glenn Cassie at the British Columbia Naturopathic Association at 604-736-6646.