



Washington State Board of Naturopathy Newsletter

Inside this issue

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Message from the Chair | 1 |
| Statistics | 2 |
| Rulemaking | 3 |
| Clarification of Protected Terms | 3 |
| New CE Requirements | 4 |
| How to Renew | 4 |

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Message from the Chair

-Chad Aschtgen, ND, Chair

Welcome to the first edition of the Washington State Board of Naturopathy's newsletter. It is our hope that this newsletter will improve communication between the board and licensed naturopathic physicians in Washington, as well as inform the public and the profession on issues related to the practice of naturopathic medical practice.

We have included topics that the board is – and has been – working on, including clarification of protected terms and the new proposed continuing education requirements. We have also included statistics on the sanctions the board has taken. Much discussion went into this last point. Part of our charge is public reporting and all final actions are a matter of public record; however, [we have elected to report the totals over time](#), rather than by name (as the medical and dental commissions do in their newsletters).

We hope you find this newsletter beneficial, and we welcome feedback and suggestions of topics that you — the license holders in Washington — would be interested in seeing in future newsletters.

Mission and Purpose

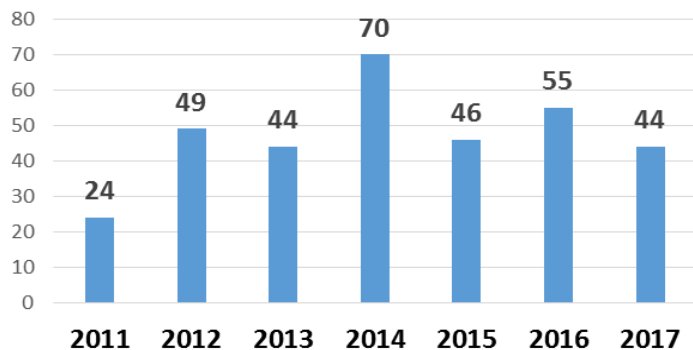
The mission of the Board of Naturopathy (board) is to protect the public health and enhance patient safety and the integrity of the naturopathic physician profession through licensing, disciplinary action, rulemaking, and education. The board's purpose is to establish, monitor, and enforce qualifications for licensure, consistent standards of practice, and continuing competency. Rules, policies, and procedures developed by the board promote the delivery of quality healthcare to people in Washington. The board values collaborative partnerships with other boards, commissions, agencies, and organizations.

Statistics

| Licensee Counts as of 11/07/2018 | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Active Licenses | 1,462 |
| Pending Applications | 18 |

Look up any healthcare provider credential on the Department of Health [Provider Credential Search page](#).

Complaints received by year



How to avoid a complaint: Communicate and document all communication and treatment provided or recommended. These actions alone may not prevent a complaint being filed but will assist the board when evaluating whether a violation of law has occurred. Know your law.

Access naturopathic medicine laws and rules here:

[RCW 18.36A](#) [WAC 246-836](#)

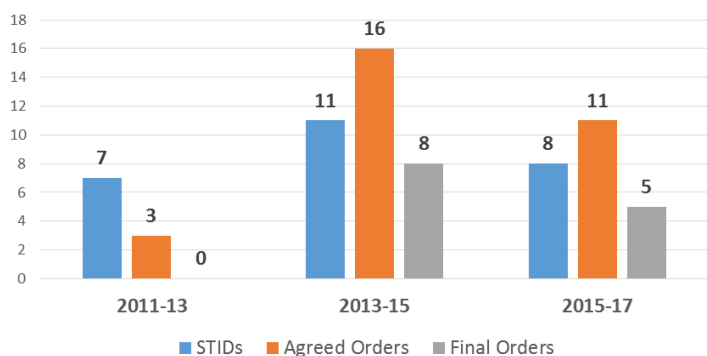
[RCW 18.130](#) [RCW 70.02](#)

[WAC 246-12](#) [WAC 246-16](#)



Legal Actions Taken per Biennium

(2 year timeframe, July 1 to June 30)



Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Agreed Order: a settlement resolving a statement of charges. This order is an agreement to comply with certain terms and conditions to protect the public.

Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Final Order: an order issued after a formal hearing before the board.

Stipulation to Informal Disposition (STID): a document stating allegations have been made, and containing an agreement by the licensee to be subject to sanctions, including terms and conditions to resolve the concerns raised by the allegations.

Reader Input

The board is looking for reader input. If you want to read about something specific, [please let us know](#).

RULEMAKING

The Board of Naturopathy is currently working on rulemaking for the following topics:

- Continuing education
- Non-surgical cosmetic procedures

Information on these rule projects — and more — is on the Department of Health [Rule-Making Activities webpage](#).

The board is now using [GovDelivery](#) to deliver notifications to subscribers. *GovDelivery* affords the user more control over topics of interest, when and how often the messages are received. To join, go to: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOH/subscriber/new>

CLARIFICATION ON PROTECTED TERMS

The Board of Naturopathy (board) recently received inquiries about what services or procedures a naturopathic physician may and may not perform. In addition, we have had inquiries about what services for which a naturopathic physician may and may not advertise. At the board's direction, this notice was prepared to help naturopathic physicians navigate these tricky waters.

Terms you may not use are those that are protected in another health profession's practice act; for example, the term "massage therapist" is protected under [RCW 18.108.030\(1\)](#) so you must hold a massage therapist license in order to refer to yourself as such. Additional protected terms in that statute include, but are not limited to, "massage practitioner," "massagist," "masseur," "touch therapist," and "massage technician."

You may, however, advertise and provide any service that is specifically listed in your scope of practice; for example, the term "physical modalities" is listed in the scope of practice statute for naturopathic physicians ([RCW 18.36A.040](#)). That term is defined in [RCW 18.36A.020\(12\)](#) as including "massage." So you may advertise and provide massage service.

Another example is "counseling." A number of regulated health professions are in the mental health area, such as "mental health counselor," "certified counselor," or "agency affiliated counselor," to name a few. Providing counseling services is in the scope of naturopathic practice. In [RCW 18.36A.040](#) it's referred to as "suggestion," which is defined in [RCW 18.36A.020\(15\)](#) as meaning "techniques including but not limited to counseling, biofeedback, and hypnosis."

The scope of naturopathic practice law ([RCW 18.36A.040](#)) states, 'No person licensed under this chapter may employ the term 'chiropractic' to describe any services provided by a naturopath under this chapter.' In some form or another, this same exclusion language is in almost every health profession's practice act.

So in summary, if you have a question about what you may do or what you may include in any advertising, look first to your own practice act ([chapter 18.36A RCW](#)). If it's listed there, you're safe. If not, check other similar professions' practice acts; they are among the professions listed under [Title 18](#) of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW).

Are you curious about any other topics the board may have already tackled? Visit the board's [Practice Information webpage](#) for other information useful to your practice.

NEW MEDICAL MARIJUANA CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

The Washington State Department of Health and The Medical Cannabis Institute, TMCI Global have released the healthcare provider education, [Washington State Healthcare Provider Education: Medical Use of Marijuana online CME course](#).

Per the state's Medical Marijuana Authorization Guidelines, Section 6: Continuing Education, physicians, physician assistants, osteopathic physicians, osteopathic physician assistants, naturopathic physicians, and advanced registered nurse practitioners should* complete a minimum of three hours of continuing education to be qualified to authorize the use of marijuana for medical patients. The state has selected TMCI Global as the sole provider for its online medical cannabis education. That will give Washington state healthcare providers access to approved evidence-based educational content.

The new course is designated for a maximum of four American Medical Association Physician's Recognition Award Category 1 credits and four American Nurses Credentialing Center contact hours. It's designated for one contact hour of pharmacotherapy credit for advanced registered nurse practitioners. Learners have one year after activation to complete the state-approved, mobile-friendly course.

The course covers the following topic areas: Overview of Washington state laws and rules, healthcare provider authorization requirements and guidelines, medical marijuana authorization amounts, the endocannabinoid system and the pharmacology of cannabis, therapeutic rationale and dosing best practices, issues related to practice for each profession, legal issues, qualifying conditions, and treatment.

*Please note: this is a recommendation ("should"); not a requirement.

Renew Your Credential Online

Naturopathic physicians who are within 60 days of their license expiration date, are able to renew their active status licenses, registrations or certifications online.

To renew online, you must register with Secure Access Washington and sign-in to the Department of Health Online Services. Go to the [Secure Access Washington \(SAW\) website](#). Here is a link to [online renewal frequently asked questions](#).

If you're having problems with the Department of Health Online Services site, [contact our Customer Service Office by email](#) or phone at 360-236-4700.

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Board Meeting Dates

November 16, 2018

20425 72nd Ave So
Suite 310, Room 307
Kent, WA 98038

February 8th, 2019

Department of Health
Town Center 2, Room
158 111 Israel road SE
Tumwater, WA 98501

May 17, 2019

Bastyr University

**Public Health - Always
Working for a Safer and
Healthier Washington.**