

North Dakota Board of Medicine

Guidelines for Naturopathic Doctors Regarding Reentry to Practice

Purpose

The North Dakota Board of Medicine (“Board”) mission is to ensure that North Dakota citizens are served by competent, professional, and ethical medical practitioners. Physicians, physician assistants, and naturopathic doctors who choose to take a break from the practice of medicine and allow their licenses to lapse for a period of two or more years are required to demonstrate current clinical competency prior to the full reinstatement of their licenses. This guideline is designed to assist practitioners who desire to reenter clinical practice while simultaneously protecting the public.

The Decision to Leave Clinical Practice

Naturopathic doctors who are considering taking a break from clinical practice should be aware of the following, which may impact reentry to practice:

- In general, the longer the break from active clinical practice, the greater the potential deficit in current knowledge and skills at the time of reentry.
- Maintaining an active license enables one to practice – even in a limited way – to stay current with some clinical skills.
- Maintaining an active license requires continuing education, which aids in retaining current medical knowledge.
- Maintaining contacts with colleagues within the active medical community may aid in securing a mentor to assist with reentry to practice.
- Allowing a license to lapse and completely leaving clinical practice will present a significant barrier to the return to licensure and active clinical practice. Naturopathic doctors who apply for reinstatement and who cannot provide evidence satisfactory to the Board of having actively engaged in clinical practice for at least the previous 24 months under the license of another jurisdiction of the United States or Canada may not be licensed unless they satisfy the Board of their current clinical competency shown by successful completion of additional training or successful completion of a formal reentry to clinical practice program approved by the Board.

Reentry to Practice Application Plan

1. Create a reentry plan with the required information outlined below.
2. Interview before the Board at its next available meeting to discuss reentry plan.

3. Execution of a reentry agreement or conditional license with the Board that implements the reentry to practice plan.

Reentry to Practice Plan

Naturopathic doctors who have not practiced in a clinical setting for two or more years immediately preceding their application date, but meet all other requirements for licensure, may present a reentry to practice plan to the Board for review.

The following factors may affect the length and scope of the reentry plan, and the applicant will be responsible for providing information on the following:

1. The amount of time away from practice;
2. The length and nature of the prior practice;
3. The reason for the interruption in practice;
4. Activities during the interruption in practice including the amount of practice-relevant continuing education; and
5. The number of years since the completion of graduate education and passage of NPLEX examinations.

NOTE: A licensee whose license has lapsed for more than two years shall apply for a new license in order to practice in North Dakota.

The applicant shall propose a Reentry to Practice Plan. The plan must provide information on the above and may include one or more of the following components. The Board shall review the proposed reentry plan and interview the applicant before determining whether to provide licensure.

1. Completion of one year of accredited postgraduate or clinical fellowship training pre-approved by the Board. You will be required to submit information showing dates of entry and anticipated completion and who approved/accredited the program. This training may include:
 - An “approved clinical training program” means a program for naturopathic medical students in which the training occurred or is being conducted by or in conjunction with an approved school of naturopathic medicine.
 - An “approved internship program” means a program in which the training occurred or is being conducted and has been approved for internship training for physicians or for graduates of a school of naturopathic medicine by the board or was approved or accredited by an education or professional association

recognized by the board or by any other state's or country's licensing agency recognized by the board.

- An “approved preceptorship program” means a program in which the training occurred or is being conducted and has been approved for preceptorship training for physicians or for graduates of a school of naturopathic medicine by the board or was approved or accredited by an education or professional association recognized by the board or by another state or country's licensing agency recognized by the board.
 - An “approved postdoctoral training” means a program in which the training occurred or is being conducted and has been approved for specialty training or for graduate medical education in naturopathic medicine by the board or approved or accredited by an education or professional association recognized by the board or by another state or county's licensing agency recognized by the board.
2. Obtaining an assessment from a licensed health care facility or licensed physician or naturopathic doctor that assesses the naturopathic doctor's current strengths, weaknesses, and any shortcomings in practice. After obtaining the assessment, the facility or licensee must then outline required education and training to be obtained by the applicant to address any areas needing improvement. The reentry to practice plan must outline the specific steps the applicant will be taking to implement the education and training to be undertaken.
 3. Enter into a written collaborative agreement with physician or naturopathic mentor who possesses a full, unrestricted, active North Dakota license and will provide mentorship and supervision of your clinical care after creating an education and training plan to address the applicant's areas of needed improvement. The agreement should specify the time period for collaboration, which will be no less than 400 hours of direct supervision for each year out of practice that specifies quality collaboration on a regular basis, up to 2 years. The collaborating mentor must provide a report to the Board at the end of the specified time that, in their opinion, the ND is safe to return to practice without further oversight.

Reentry to Practice Agreement/Conditional License

Upon receiving a completed application, the applicant may be called to interview before the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting with his/her proposed Reentry to Practice Plan.

If the Board approves an applicant's Reentry to Practice Plan, the approved plan may be incorporated by reference into a conditional license.

Unsatisfactory completion of the reentry plan or practicing outside of the scope of practice of the conditional license shall result in the automatic inactivation of the conditional license.

If a conditional license is issued, the licensee will be responsible to petition the Board for removal of the conditions placed upon the license upon showing acceptable completion of the Reentry to Practice Plan. Upon successful completion, and Board approval after such a petition, the Board may issue a full and unconditioned license.

Fees

Fees for obtaining evaluations and implementing reentry plans vary greatly. The costs associated with reentry are the responsibility of the applicant.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 26, 2024

SAMPLE REENTRY TO PRACTICE PLAN

Clinical Experience

Time Spent in previous Clinical Practice: _____

Date and Location of Last Clinical Practice: _____

Reason for Leaving Clinical Practice: _____

Intended Reentry Clinical Practice

Intended Area of Specialty: _____

Intended Practice Setting and Location: _____

Description of How I Maintained Competency After Leaving Practice

Plan for Obtaining Remedial Medical Education

Continuing Education: _____

Refresher Course(s) Offered by a Medical or Naturopathic School or Other Formal Program:

Plan for Obtaining Remedial Clinical Competency

(provide information on the following including date if this is to be incorporated into your reentry to practice plan)

Approved clinical training program: _____

Approved internship program: _____

Approved preceptorship program: _____

Approved postdoctoral training program: _____

Licensed Health Care Facility working with: _____

Mentorship/Collaborating Physician or Naturopath: _____

- Name/Medical Specialty of Mentor: _____
- Number of Days/Hours Worked per Week: _____
- Period of Direct Supervision: (e.g. 240 hours of patient care) _____
- Method of Direct Supervision and Review of Clinical Care: (e.g. The mentor shall participate in the care of each patient to the degree necessary to be personally responsible for the care rendered, to be able to certify to the quality of such care, and to provide prompt meaningful feedback and guidance): _____

- Period of General Supervision: _____
- Method of General Supervision and Review of Clinical Care: _____
- Frequency of Written Reports to the Board: _____

- Content of Written Reports to the Board: (e.g. Practice activities, hours, workload, functioning, knowledge, skills, general professionalism, any deficiencies, and overall ability to practice safely and competently): _____

Plan for Assessing Medical Knowledge and Clinical Skills Following Remedial Education and Training:
