

NATUROPATHIC LICENSING AND INSURANCE COVERAGE

Naturopathic physicians are currently licensed in 17 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and 5 Canadian provinces.

Approximately 30% of Americans – and nearly three-quarters of Canadians – thus live in a locale that permits access to safe, effective, and affordable natural medicine treatments provided by licensed physicians who have graduated from an accredited four-year residential naturopathic medical school. (Graduates must also pass the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination Board (NPLEX) examination before they can practice.)

These states, territories, and provinces include:

- Alaska
- Alberta
- Arizona
- British Columbia
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- District of Columbia
- Hawaii
- Kansas
- Maine
- Manitoba
- Maryland
- Minnesota
- Montana
- New Hampshire
- North Dakota
- Ontario
- Oregon
- Puerto Rico
- Saskatchewan
- Utah
- Vermont
- Washington
- Virgin Islands

At any given time, efforts to license naturopathic physicians are underway in several states. In 2014, these include Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island.

Under Section 2706 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, insurers are required to include and reimburse any licensed health care provider, including naturopathic physicians, in health insurance plans. The provision does not affect reimbursement rates. Implementation of Section 2706 varies; while progress is being made, NDs are still seeking full and fair adherence to the provision in most states in which they are licensed.

In three states – Oregon, Vermont and Washington – naturopathic medical services are covered under Medicaid. Washington also has an "Every Category of Provider" law, which requires (for insurers regulated by the insurance commissioner's office) that, if a service is covered for one licensed provider type, it must be covered for all licensed provider types.

American Association of Naturopathic Physicians
818 18th St. NW, Ste 250
Washington, DC 20006
www.naturopathic.org

