

MedThree Insures Naturopathic Doctors, Too

Here's What Brokers Need to Know About the Market

January 26, 2022

There is a gap in healthcare for people with chronic concerns and those who want a whole-person approach. Naturopathic doctors help fill that gap. Through education, advocacy, and evidence-based natural medicine, they provide solutions that empower patients to achieve optimum health.

Over the last decade, naturopathic medicine has become increasingly regulated in provinces across Canada. Since the Naturopathy Act, 2007 took effect on July 1, 2015, naturopathy has been regulated under the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991 (RHPA) as the 29th health profession in Ontario.

In recent years, Canadians have become increasingly interested in alternative therapies and forms of medicine. Because of this, many Canadian residents have turned to naturopathy, a safe, natural and noninvasive form of medical treatment. More physicians and clinical teams are offering and even specializing in naturopathic treatments as a result of the high demand for naturopathic primary care.

What is a naturopathic doctor?

NDs are primary care practitioners trained to diagnose, prevent, and treat acute and chronic illnesses. In some provinces, they can also prescribe medication. Besides private or group practice, naturopathic doctors have many employment options. In addition to conventional medical doctors and an array of integrated health care professionals, they work in government, hospitals, medical schools, and integrated health clinics.

Naturopathic doctors must invest into their career many years of preparation and training. The Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME), the only accrediting body for naturopathic medical programs in North America that qualifies graduates for licensure, requires a bachelor's degree before a doctoral program can be accredited. Consequently, naturopathic students complete more than 4,100 hours of classroom instruction, including at least 1,200 hours of supervised clinical training. In addition to completing the program, naturopathic medical graduates must also pass the North American standardized board exams. This is the only way to become a qualified Naturopathic Doctor or Doctor of Naturopathy with the ND designation.

What could go wrong at a naturopathic clinic

It is always possible for a poor client outcome to be traced back to the naturopathic doctor's medical advice in the form of a claim of inaccurate advice, no matter how well trained or informed the healthcare provider is. A naturopathic doctor's failure to uphold the duty of care can lead to a major lawsuit if a patient or client suffers an injury, loses money, or suffers some other loss as a result of the naturopathic doctor's actions.

When working with multidisciplinary teams, naturopathic doctors are exposed to a unique risk of allegations of negligence or health advice resulting in poor patient outcomes, be they allergic reactions or worsening symptoms. Whenever a naturopathic doctor works in a clinic with a team, large or small, they could be liable for any error made by their colleagues, by employees or by temporary workers.

Additionally, even if the naturopathic doctor is not at fault in a lawsuit, there are still settlements, litigation, and other legal fees to worry about. A specialist carrier will cover some or all of the costs associated with hiring lawyers and litigation teams, going to court, or settling a claim.

The MedThree Advantage

With specialized experience in the healthcare industry, MedThree Insurance Group can help by providing tailored policies for the healthcare and life sciences industries. Our insurance coverage options make it easy for brokers to find the right policy for their clients in the healthcare and life science industry. Visit us at <https://medthreeinsurance.com/> to learn more about our healthcare insurance products.

Content is current as of the date of broadcast and is subject to change without notice.