



Oregon

Board of Naturopathic Medicine

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October 5, 2015

Dave Nesseler-Cass
Director, Regulatory affairs
Moda Health

Dear Mr. Nesseler-Cass,

The Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine was contacted by the Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians requesting assistance relating to the educational criteria of Naturopathic physicians as primary care practitioners.

The Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians forwarded correspondence from Moda Health to this Board seeking clarification on whether the educational criteria required of the naturopathic licensing board serve to confer a primary care designation on naturopathic doctors.

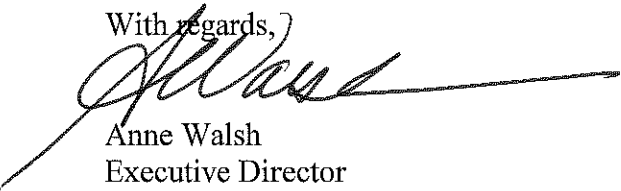
Different from MDs, DOs, or Nurse Practitioners who specialize in a wide variety of fields and have a commensurately wide variety of specialty designations, all naturopathic doctors are trained as primary care practitioners who emphasize the use of prevention and natural therapeutics.

In order to achieve licensure in Oregon, all naturopathic doctors are expected to be educationally, clinically, and experientially prepared to practice primary care. All licensee applicants must pass the Naturopathic Physician Licensing Examination (NPLEX) which is administered by the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners (NABNE), the national certifying body for naturopathic physicians. The NPLEX test ensures that naturopathic doctors have achieved minimum competencies in the didactic and clinical requirements of the accredited educational programs – all of which are designed to prepare individuals to become primary care physicians.

While some naturopathic doctors may choose to specialize even further, or may choose to not take on the role of primary care provider, the license conferred by the Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine reflects the academic and certification standards of naturopathic doctors as primary care physicians.

The Board is happy to discuss any questions Moda Health may have regarding the licensure standards and educational criteria for Naturopathic physicians. Feel free to contact this Board if we can be of further assistance.

With regards,


Anne Walsh
Executive Director

