

Licensure

State licensure, professional title recognition and protection, and specified legal scopes of practice are clearly defined for the profession. NDs who graduate from an accredited naturopathic medical school must pass the national and state board exams to apply for a license to practice naturopathic medicine.¹ The Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination (NPLEX) is the required national board exam for licensure in all jurisdictions. Independent professional assessment has confirmed the psychometric validity of the production, format, and management procedures of twenty basic science, clinical science and specialty exams, resulting in a standard for naturopathic credentialing within North America. The North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners (NABNE) credentials candidates and administers the NPLEX.²

There are 21 jurisdictions that license NDs in North America. In September 2003, California joined these ranks, followed in the same year by the District of Columbia and Idaho in 2005. Naturopathic physicians are now licensed in Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and the US Territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.³ Regulated provinces in Canada include British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Ontario, with Alberta currently in process.⁴ There are active licensure campaigns in 9 additional states and Canadian provinces as well.⁵

REFERENCES

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3. Kim L, Mills E. Physicians' Information and Education Resource (PIER): Naturopathic Medicine, American College of Physicians; American Society of Internal Medicine, July 1, 2003.
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