



NLCB Policy on Conditional Licensure in Relation Alcohol and Drugs.

Policy SU-01

A Policy Regarding the Conditional Licensure of Doctors of Chiropractic who may pose material risk to the public due to an identified or potential substance abuse disorder.

Intent

To set forth the requirements for conditional licensure of Chiropractors who have been identified either by a disciplinary proceeding of the board, or through self admission, to have been engaged in the use of alcohol or drugs in a manner that would establish concerns regarding fitness to practice chiropractic due to a potential for impairment while delivering care to patients.

Legislative Authority of NLCB

The Newfoundland and Labrador Chiropractic Board (NLCB) is given legislative power to impose conditions on licensure in relation to the practice of chiropractic, particularly where it has been established that there is or may be a material risk to the public by the issuance of an unrestricted license to practice chiropractic for a specific registrant or applicant. Where the NLCB has established either by a disciplinary proceeding or through self attestation by the respondent that conditional licensure is warranted, the board may impose conditions to ensure the protection of the public as outlined in Section 31(3) of the Chiropractor's Act (2009) such that:

31.

(3) Where conditions or restrictions have been imposed upon a respondents ability to carry on his or her practice, his or her rights and privileges to practice chiropractic shall be limited to the extent specified by the conditions or restrictions.

When it has been established that these conditions have been necessitated as a result of a real or potential risk of the registrant to be in contravention of Section 10(n) of the *Chiropractors Regulations, 1996* which states:

Code of conduct

10. Improper conduct shall include the following conduct:

(n) engaging in the practice of chiropractic while member's ability to perform a professional service is impaired by alcohol or a drug;

the Board shall prescribe conditions of licensure consistent with the nature of the identified risk and in keeping with this policy

Description of policy

For the purpose of determining the conditions of licensure, the following shall apply.

Eligibility for temporary licensure

The Board may impose conditions of licensure that may include but are not limited to the requirement of the registrant to:

1. Abstain from the use of alcohol and all other mood altering drugs, including prescription and non prescription sedatives or narcotics
2. Attend and verify attendance at meetings, at a predetermined frequency by the board, of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and/or Narcotics Anonymous (NA), or another peer support group as approved by the board
3. Maintain and verify meaningful contact with a suitable sponsor within AA, NA or another peer support group as approved by the board between meetings
4. Engage in mental health counselling services by a qualified practitioner in the areas of addiction, trauma informed counselling, recovery, cognitive behavioural therapy, or any other specific areas as prescribed by the board and at a frequency as prescribed by the board
5. Submit to random drug and alcohol screening at a facility as prescribed by the Board and with any other conditions as prescribed by the board associated with this screening including but not limited to payment of costs of testing and time limitations to present for screening when notified.
6. Participate in and verify attendance at a prescribed program directed at intensive alcohol and/or drug rehabilitation which may include the requirement to participate in a program which is residential in nature.
7. Provide documentation pertaining to fitness to practice by a Medical physician or other qualified health professional as approved by the Board and comply with any and all recommendations of that health professional as prescribed by the Board

The NLCB may at their sole discretion consider an applicant or current registrant eligible for conditional licensure in the event that they:

- Are currently licensed as a chiropractor or have completed the prescribed application forms as directed at the board
- have acknowledged acceptance of the conditions of licensure as prescribed by the board in writing
- Has met those other requirements as prescribed by the board

A conditional license shall not be issued for a term that exceeds that of a regular license however the agreed conditions of licensure may extend beyond the term of annual licensure for a duration that is determined to be appropriate by the Board