



Natural Health Practitioners of Canada
Praticiens de la Santé Naturelle du Canada

POSITION STATEMENT

Treatment of Minors

Treating Minors

Treating minors should be approached with the utmost care to ensure the safety and efficacy of their treatment. The NHPC does not restrict members from treating minors of any age. To abide by Practice Standards and ethical practice, all clients must be able to give informed and express consent. To give informed consent, the patient must be given adequate explanation of the proposed treatment, including the procedure and anticipated outcomes and risks. If the person receiving treatment is not of legal age in the territory or province they reside, a parent or guardian must do so on their behalf.

Guidelines for Treatment

Please consider incorporating the following as part of your intake with clients who are minors:

1. Ensure the health history form, client interview and informed consent is obtained with both the parent/guardian and the minor receiving treatment present.
2. It is highly recommended that an explanation of the treatment process is verbally communicated, simultaneously, to the parent/guardian and minor to establish how a safe treatment transpires.
3. Consider the maturity level of the person receiving treatment when deciding if a parent or guardian is to remain present during the entire treatment.
4. Ensure your policies on the treatment of minors are transparent before accepting the appointment booking.
5. It is highly recommended that the parent or guardian remain in the treatment for the entire first treatment to understand the procedure.

Clinics and practitioners should create their own policies regarding treating minors considering the legal age of consent in their province or territory.

Definition

Minor: A person who is under the age of majority in their place of residence.

More Information

For assistance or feedback in creating your own policy, please contact:

Practice Management Department

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