

Naturopathic Doctors are Primary Care Doctors

Naturopathic doctors (NDs) are trained and licensed to:

- ✓ Provide cost-effective patient-centered primary care services
- ✓ Practice family medicine
 - Naturopathic doctors see people of all ages and all conditions¹
 - Establish care with patients who do not have a prior history of care or a diagnosis
 - Manage ongoing primary care
- ✓ Diagnose and treat all acute and chronic diseases*
- ✓ Prescribe all legend drugs and Schedule III-IV drugs*
- ✓ Coordinate care and refer patients to work in tandem with specialists when appropriate (e.g., gastroenterologists and cardiologists)
- ✓ Prioritize prevention-oriented patient education in order to decrease the incidence of chronic diseases and keep health care costs down²
- ✓ Encourage health-promoting diet and exercise and use other behavioral counseling practices to improve patient outcomes and decrease the need for prescription medications³

NDs receive education comparable to medical & osteopathic doctors:

Figure 2: Average clinical hours by degree

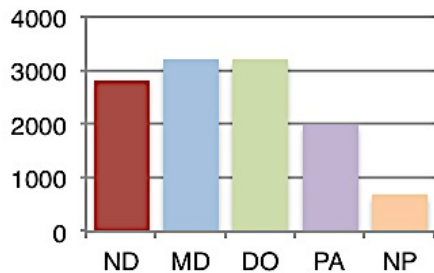
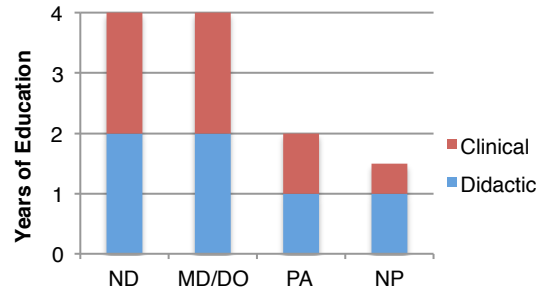


Figure 1: Years of postgraduate medical education



¹ Stewart, D., Weeks, J., & Bent, S. Utilization, patient satisfaction, and cost implications of acupuncture, massage, and naturopathic medicine offered as covered health benefits: a comparison of two delivery models. *Alternative therapies in health and medicine*, (2001): 7(4), 66.

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² Lind, Bonnie K., et al. "Use of complementary and alternative medicine providers by fibromyalgia patients under insurance coverage." *Arthritis Care & Research* 57.1 (2007): 71-76.

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³ Stewart D, Weeks J, Bent S. 2001.

NDs use the same CPT codes for office visits & preventive services as other primary care doctors:

Description	Example Services	CPT Code(s)
Manage ongoing primary care	Established patient well visit	99391-99397
	Established patients	99211-99215
Establish care with patients who do not have a prior history of care or a diagnosis	New patient well visit	99381-99387
	New patients	99201-99205
	Tuberculosis skin test	66580
	Strep test	87880
	Urinalysis	81000-81003
	Occult blood test	82270
	Pregnancy test	81025
	Vaginosis profile	87205
	ECG with interpretation	93000
	Spirometry (lung test)	94010
	KOH Prep	87220
	Mono spot test	86308
	Hgb A1C	83036
	Glucose finger stick	94760
Hematocrit (blood test)	85014	
Perform wellness exams, screening tests, and pap smears*	Annual physical exams	99381-99397
	Pap smear	99385-99387
		99395-99397
Perform minor in-office procedures	Venipuncture	36145
	Injection	96372
	Anoscopy	46600
	Removal of impacted earwax	69210
Repair and care for superficial lacerations and abrasions*	Superficial wound repair	12001-12019
	Superficial wound treatment	12020-12021
Perform patient education and health counseling	Preventative medicine counseling	99401- 99404, 99411-99412
	Dietary counseling	97802
	Smoking cessation counseling	99406-99407
	Alcohol & non-tobacco substance abuse screening	99408-99409
Order, administer and prescribe therapeutic devices, barrier contraception, and durable medical equipment*	IUD insertion	58300
	IUD removal	58301
Prescribe and administer epinephrine*	Administer epinephrine	J0171
	Administer diphenhydramine	J1200
Prescribe and administer natural and synthetic hormones*	Testosterone injection	J3150
	Therapeutic, prophylactic, or diagnostic injection	96372

*Current scope of practice language taken from the Naturopathic Doctors Act (SB907) – B&P Code Division 2, Chapter 8.2.