

Dear Doctors,

On March 1, 2016, naturopathic doctors¹ are scheduled to be licensed by the Board of Physicians (the Board) this year. One of the requirements of licensure for naturopathic doctors is a consultation and collaboration agreement with a Maryland licensed physician.

The Board is looking to compile a roster of physicians interested in entering into a consultation and collaboration agreement with a naturopathic doctor. The Board anticipates between 25 and 30 naturopathic doctors will seek licensure in Maryland.

A physician entering into an agreement with a naturopathic doctor may be asked for advice or for an opinion as needed for the treatment of a patient, but the patient does not enter the care of the consulted physician, the consultation will not create a physician-patient relationship, and the collaborating physician through the consultation will not direct patient care or engage directly in the care of a patient.

If you are interested in consulting with a naturopathic doctor, please provide Cecilia Laurent with your contact information at Cecilia.laurent@maryland.gov. The Board will keep your name and contact information on file and provide it to a naturopathic doctor who does not have a consulting physician.

Thank you.

¹ A naturopathic doctor is a doctor who practices natural medicine. Natural medicine means the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of human health conditions, injury and disease using only patient education and naturopathic therapies and therapeutic substances recognized by the Council of Naturopathic Medicine Education.

Naturopathic medicine includes:

- Counseling;
- The practice of the mechanical sciences of healing, including mechanotherapy, articular manipulation, corrective and orthopedic gymnastics, hydrotherapy, electrotherapy, and phototherapy; and
- The practice of the material sciences of healing, including nutrition, phytotherapy, treatment by natural substances, and external applications.