

**MARYLAND BOARD OF PHYSICIANS  
NATUROPATHIC DOCTORS FORMULARY COUNCIL (NDFC)  
OPEN MEETING MINUTES  
November 8, 2017**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Christina G. Marrongelli, OTA, BScPH, PharmD.; Dr. Howard Haft, Maryland Department of Health, Public Health Services; Melissa A. Clark, M.D.; and Paul Faust, N.D.

**MEMBERS PRESENT VIA CONFERENCE PHONE:** Joylene John-Sowah, M.D., MPH and Carrie A. Runde, N.D.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Brenda Baker

**STAFF PRESENT:** Christine Farrelly, Executive Director, Maryland Board of Physicians; David Finkler, Board Counsel; Yemisi Koya, Director, Communication, Education and Policy (CEP) Unit; and Sandi Van Horn, Health Policy Analyst, CEP Unit.

**MARYLAND BOARD OF PHARMACY GUESTS:** Deena Speights-Napata, Executive Director and Brian K. Logan, Legislative Liaison.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Marrongelli called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dr. Haft made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2017 NDFC meeting. Dr. Faust seconded. The members present voted to approve the minutes.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

NDFC members and Maryland Board of Physicians (Board) staff introduced themselves. Ms. Farrelly joined the meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM AUGUST MEETING**

Ms. Van Horn reported on an early draft of formulary Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). The answers in the draft closely follow language in statute.

NDFC members discussed two of the items in the draft FAQs: one regarding ND titles permitted in Maryland and the other regarding medical foods. Mr. Finkler reminded the group that the term "medical foods" is defined under federal guidance. And, under Maryland's statute regarding naturopathic doctors (NDs), there is nothing that prohibits medical foods. Mr. Finkler added that it is not in the scope of the NDFC to make decisions about federal guidance, such as defining terms. However, the item in the draft FAQs about medical foods may be helpful to the public since a question on this topic did come up before and was considered by the Naturopathic Medicine Advisory Committee.

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At approximately 10:30 a.m., representatives of the Maryland Board of Pharmacy (Board of Pharmacy) joined the meeting. NDFC members and staff of both boards introduced themselves.

Ms. Farrelly clarified that medical foods are mentioned only in the draft FAQs, not in the formulary. She noted that the Board tries to be consumer focused and licensee focused with information but the Board cannot provide legal advice. Since a question about medical foods came up before, it is appropriate to include the topic in FAQs to be posted on the Board's Website. Dr. Haft added, and Ms. Farrelly agreed, that it's beneficial to have the same answer available for consistency purposes.

During the discussion, Dr. Faust suggested two changes, and Board staff agreed to revise the draft FAQs.

Ms. Speights-Napata opined that the Board of Pharmacy expects that pharmacists will ask about definitions and what can be prescribed. She added that the Board of Pharmacy has several avenues to inform pharmacists: blast e-mail, the Website, and the newsletter.

Ms. Farrelly noted that the formulary still must go before the full Board for approval.<sup>1</sup> The group reviewed the items listed in the draft formulary again, and Dr. Marrongelli brought up questions from the prior NDFC meeting.<sup>2</sup> Ms. Farrelly stated that Board staff will work with Board of Pharmacy staff on the draft FAQs because questions from pharmacists may overlap both boards, and the boards want to avoid sending people back and forth.

**AUGUST VOTE ON THE FORMULARY DRAFT**

NDFC members agreed that the August 2017 vote would stand, as there were no changes made to the draft formulary at this meeting.

**NEXT STEPS FOR THE FORMULARY DRAFT**

The draft formulary as approved by the NDFC in August 2017 is due to be presented at the next full Board meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Marrongelli adjourned the meeting at 11 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Dr. Yemisi Koya  
Director, Communication, Education and Policy Unit

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<sup>1</sup> The next full Board meeting of the Board of Physicians is scheduled for January 24, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> At the August 2017 NDFC meeting, questions raised included how NDs could obtain epinephrine and other permitted items.