

Notice to Licensed Vocational Nurses Regarding Senate Bill 994

The Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) acknowledges the 2022 legislation of Senate Bill 994 (Jones, Chapter 713, Statutes of 2022) that specifically authorizes licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) to practice under the direction of licensed naturopathic doctors, effective January 1, 2023.

While the scope of practice for the licensed vocational nurse has not changed, the bill revises the definition of oversight of LVNs to additionally include practice under the direction of a naturopathic doctor.

In 2023, the Board will be amending its regulations to further clarify the rights and responsibilities of LVNs who choose to work under the direction of naturopathic doctors. To receive updates and information on the Board's progress in drafting these regulations, please subscribe to e-mail updates by selecting "Legislative and Regulation Updates" on the Board's website at:

<https://www.bvnpt.ca.gov/webapplications/apps/subscribe/index.shtml>

The Board strongly urges vocational nurses and NCLEX-PN-eligible vocational nursing students, who are considering working for naturopathic doctors, to carefully study the provisions of the bill, and reach out to the Board with their questions and comments:

Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians

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What this means: LVNs may practice under the supervision of licensed naturopathic doctors, in addition to registered nurses, and physicians and surgeons, starting January 1, 2023.

How this works: The Board does not facilitate job placement or clinical opportunities for LVNs with naturopathic doctors. The scope of practice for LVNs may be limited, in some cases, to the scope of practice of the naturopathic doctor (for example, if the naturopathic doctor is not IV therapy certified, an LVN may not practice IV therapy under their direction). The Board's enforcement activities will remain the same for LVNs working with naturopathic doctors as they do for LVNs working in organized healthcare settings (hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, public health clinics).

The Board expects that any LVN considering employment by a naturopathic doctor will verify that the naturopathic doctor is actively licensed and will have a signed written supervision protocol, listing the practice agreement, available for the Board's review at any time the Board requests it.

The text of SB 994 (Jones) *Vocational nursing: direction of naturopathic doctor* is located at:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB994

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a naturopathic doctor?

“Naturopathic doctor” is a person who holds an active license and practices “naturopathy,” a noninvasive system of health practice that employs natural health modalities, substances, and education to promote health.

“Naturopathic medicine” is a distinct and comprehensive system of primary health care practiced by a naturopathic doctor for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of human health conditions, injuries, and disease.¹

How can I find out if the naturopathic doctor I interviewed with is licensed?

Use the DCA license search at <https://search.dca.ca.gov>.

I am a blood withdrawal-certified psychiatric technician. Can I work for a naturopathic doctor?

No. The provisions of this bill do not permit oversight of psychiatric technicians by naturopathic doctors.²

I am an intravenous therapy-certified LVN. I received a job offer to do mobile intravenous therapy for a naturopathic doctor. Is this okay?

No, it is not okay. LVNs may not start or superimpose intravenous fluids independently in unsupervised home care or other unauthorized settings. “Unauthorized settings” includes “wellness parties,” mobile services to private homes, and spas, among others. If you are not in an organized healthcare setting, you may not perform intravenous therapy.³

I just started my new job as an LVN working for a naturopathic doctor. She said I will be “lead” of two naturopathic assistants when she is out of the office. What does this mean?

We don’t know what this means. However, LVNs do not have authority to supervise naturopathic assistants. A “naturopathic assistant” means a person who may be unlicensed, who performs basic administrative, clerical, and technical supportive services for a licensed naturopathic doctor or naturopathic corporation and who is at least 18 years of age, and who has had at least the minimum amount of hours of appropriate training pursuant to standards established by the Medical Board of California for a medical assistant pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 2069. A naturopathic assistant functions under the supervision of a licensed naturopathic doctor, not an LVN.⁴

I am an LVN and my license is on probation right now. Can I work for a naturopathic doctor?

Yes, as long as you maintain the conditions of your probation.⁵

What can an LVN expect for pay from a naturopathic doctor?

It will vary, and the Board doesn't collect data on this.

I am working on the requirements to earn my registered nursing license. Will working for a naturopathic doctor help me earn clinical hours toward my registered nursing license?

Please check with the [Board of Registered Nursing](#) for clinical hours criteria for your registered nursing license.

Can LVNs working for naturopathic doctors perform respiratory therapy skills?

No. Effective January 1, 2023, LVNs may only provide perform respiratory tasks and services expressly identified by the Respiratory Care Board of California, and only when directed by a physician and surgeon.⁶

I'm an intravenous therapy-certified LVN. I'm going to work for a naturopathic doctor for their IV private event parties. I'll only be working 20 hours a month. They said I'll be a "1099 employee." Do I have to sign a Supervision Protocol, even though I'm "on call" and not working full-time?

LVNs may not be independent contractors for naturopathic doctors.⁷ You must have a signed Supervision Protocol, listing the practice agreement, with the naturopathic doctor, and make that Supervision Protocol available to the Board, if requested.⁸

When can I start working for a naturopathic doctor?

You may enter into a Supervision Protocol agreement with the naturopathic doctor on or after January 1, 2023.

¹ Business and Professions Code Section 3613

² [Senate Bill 994](#) (Jones, Chapter 713, Statutes of 2022)

³ Business and Professions Code Section 2859.1(c)(6)

⁴ Business and Professions Code Section 3613

⁵ Business and Professions Code 2859.1(f)

⁶ [Senate Bill 1436](#) (Roth, Chapter 624, Statutes of 2022)

⁷ [State of California Department of Industrial Relations](#) on [Assembly Bill 5](#) (Gonzalez, Chapter 296, Statutes of 2020)

⁸ Business and Professions Code Section 2859