

I am a patient of a naturopathic physician. I believe in and like the naturopathic medical approach and would like my ND, and other NDs, to have medication prescriptive authority consistent with their current training.

I am only 23 years old and have spent the past six years suffering from a plethora of health issues related to getting sick with intestinal parasites while living abroad. I have seen dozens of doctors at this point, and while MDs are helpful for many people, their approach to medicine has not been helpful for my post-infection digestive system. They look for bugs in my system and when they don't find any they have little to offer me. My ND, on the other hand, takes a holistic look at all of my systems and tries to find what is right for me based on how these systems interact. She has tried a combination of homeopathic remedies, probiotics, and more, adjusting treatments as necessary. She is my primary care physician at this point. Just last week we got test results back indicating that I had a urinary tract infection and, knowing my health history, my doctor recommended that I take probiotics, antibiotics, and homeopathic remedies together to try to keep my body strong as it healed from the infection. Unfortunately, because she is not able to write prescriptions I had to spend time scheduling an appointment with a doctor and going through the same urinalysis process that I already went through just to have the same results discovered about a week later. (For those of you who know what urinary tract infections feel like you know that waiting a week in that amount of pain can be an unbearable process.) While I am glad that she has a good relationship with an MD relatively nearby and I was able to have access to the antibiotics, it was an unnecessarily complicated process that led to unnecessary suffering.

Prescriptive authority would benefit me because I will have the best of both worlds, a natural medicine approach combined with conservative medication therapy when needed, both from my ND. I would not have to bounce back and forth between an MD and my ND. While many MDs are willing to work collaboratively with NDs, many are not, so I would be able to avoid that issue. NDs are comprehensively trained to utilize prescriptive medications when necessary and other states have had prescriptive authority for years so why not here?

In the end, I would be better served as I would have the ability to receive many more primary care services from my ND which I would very much appreciate as it saves me time, money, hassle and it is more efficient.

Once again, I ask you to support providing prescriptive authority to naturopathic physicians (NDs). Thank you.

Hannah Mahon