



## Please support House Bill 5534, An Act Concerning the Practice of Naturopathy.

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### Medical Education Hours Comparison

#### U. of Bridgeport College of Naturopathic Medicine Vs. MD Medical School Curriculum

Pharmacology is taught throughout the curriculum in both conventional medical and naturopathic medical training.

#### University of Bridgeport College of Naturopathic Medicine (UBCNM) Curriculum

Two courses are dedicated to pharmacology and drug therapeutics totaling 72 hours. Another 86 hours of pharmacology and drug therapeutics is taught in cardiology, gynecology, endocrinology, pediatrics, rheumatology, EENT, neurology, gastroenterology, urology/proctology, oncology, dermatology, minor office procedures, emergency medicine, environmental medicine, obstetrics, geriatrics, clinical physical laboratory diagnosis I and II, and immunology. 158 hours of pharmacology and drug therapeutics is taught in total. Total Instructional hours at UBCNM are 4515 hours, comprising 765 hours of basic sciences; 2358 hours of clinical sciences; and 1392 hours of clinical practice.

#### Conventional Medical School Programs

At Yale, UConn, and Quinnipiac University Schools of Medicine, pharmacology is part of a block format curriculum, and these schools do not identify hours specifically dedicated to pharmacology instruction. A commonly cited figure for total pharmacology instruction at conventional medical schools is 120 hours. Total Instructional hours at most conventional medical school programs ranges from 4300 to 5100 hours.

#### States that License Naturopathic Doctors and Have Drug Prescribing Authority

State	Drug Authority	State	Drug Authority
Alaska	No	Maryland	No
*Arizona	Yes (Large Drug Authority)	Minnesota	No
*California	Yes	Montana	Yes
Colorado	No	New Hampshire	Yes
*Connecticut	No	North Dakota	No
Hawaii	Yes	*Oregon	Yes (Large Drug Authority)
Kansas	No	Utah	Yes
Maine	Yes	Vermont	Yes
		*Washington	Yes (Large Drug Authority)

\*States that have Naturopathic Medical Schools

**Noteworthy Point:** Optometrists, Dentists and Podiatrists upon licensure can use drug authority in practice.

#### Safety and Malpractice Record\*\*

The safety records of NDs in states with licensure are typically much better than those of MDs and DOs in these states. In 2006, the California Bureau of Naturopathic Medicine contacted the licensing agencies in states that allow NDs to prescribe. None of the states reported any patient harm or disciplinary action due to ND prescribing, nor were there any civil actions against NDs for prescribing. The Bureau also contacted the NCMIC Insurance Company, which insures many NDs in all licensing states, as well as all the naturopathic medical schools. In a letter dated June 7, 2006, NCMIC stated: "In the five years that NCMIC has been insuring Naturopathic Physicians and the colleges, we have never opened a claim against a Naturopathic Physician involving prescription medications."

The California Bureau contacted Jury Verdicts Northwest (JVN) to see if there were any civil actions filed against licensed NDs. JVN covers both Oregon and Washington, the two states with the greatest number of NDs and the longest histories of licensure (since 1919 and 1927, respectively). JVN found no cases against NDs for prescription negligence, and added that, "for that matter our database contained no cases against naturopathic doctors at all."

The safety record of naturopathic physicians regarding pharmacologic substances is well demonstrated in the northwest where NDs have broad prescriptive authority. Jury Verdicts Northwest, a legal database which records court cases in Washington and Oregon, the area of the country with the largest number of naturopathic physicians, shows no judgments for malpractice against NDs since the database was started in 1983 through 2010.

\*\*Vermont Office of Professional Regulation Study on Prescriptive Authority for Naturopathic Physicians February 2013.