

# POSITION STATEMENT

## Sale of Homeopathic Products

### Introduction

Homeopathy is a health philosophy that is based on the principle of “like cures like.” Unlike the standard drug approval process in which rigorous scientific evidence of efficacy is required before approval, [Health Canada](#) reviews homeopathic products to make sure that they are safe and that the health claims are supported by textbooks and other references used in the practice of homeopathy.

It is important for an individual to understand the quality and credibility of the information on which they make their health-related decisions. In the interest of supporting the public in their decision-making about the use of homeopathic products, the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists (NSCP) has developed the following position on its role and the role of the profession in the sale of homeopathic products.

### The NSCP’s Role

The responsibility for what health products are and are not approved for sale in Canada lies with Health Canada. As a health profession regulator, the NSCP does not prohibit the sale of a product that has been approved by Health Canada, nor does it influence Health Canada’s approval process.

It is the responsibility of the NSCP, as the pharmacy regulator in Nova Scotia, to govern the practice of pharmacy, and therefore the way in which pharmacists engage with the public when providing these federally approved products.

### The Profession’s Role

- *Pharmacy owners* make decisions about what Health Canada approved products to sell or not sell consistent with societal expectations of a retail healthcare entity and the NSCP’s *Code of Ethics*.
- *Pharmacies* offering homeopathic products for sale support individuals in making informed decisions regarding these products. Some pharmacies have separated homeopathic products from conventional medicines on shelves to support public understanding of their differences.
- *Pharmacists* assist individuals looking for guidance regarding their health needs and support them in making informed choices. Pharmacists practicing in a pharmacy that offers homeopathic products for sale help individuals seeking advice on these products to understand the evidence base for homeopathic products, the Health Canada approval process for these products, and support the patient in making a decision that best supports their desired health outcome.

It is important to balance protecting the public from harm with supporting the public's autonomy to choose how they will meet their healthcare needs. The NSCP has the public's best interest as its sole focus and will monitor this issue to ensure its position supports the public in making informed decisions about their healthcare choices.

## Resources

Health Canada has posted information on its [website](#) describing the work it is engaged in as part of its ongoing efforts to address any risks arising from public misunderstanding of the difference between homeopathic products versus medicines and vaccines.