



**AANMC Joint Temporary Substantive Change Submission**

October 12, 2020

To protect the students and faculty at schools accredited by the Council of Naturopathic Medical Education during the COVID-19 pandemic, the AANMC ND member programs are requesting an emergency substantive change from the CNME that will extend the current temporary emergency policies to provide accredited programs flexibility in meeting accreditation standards. The continued modifications include the following:

1. **1,200-Hour Clinical Internship Requirement.** The 1,200-hour clinical internship requirement can be met through the use of off-site, asynchronous, and online activities.
2. **Required 450 Patient Visits.** Programs can use any or all of the following to enable students to complete the 450-patient-visit requirement:
  - i. Simulation for primary and secondary contacts;
  - ii. Telemedicine/telehealth visits;
  - iii. Supervised mock patient cases; and
  - iv. In-person patient visits – recognizing that the numbers of in-person visits at all teaching clinics will be significantly reduced from pre-COVID levels.
3. **Modalities and Checkoffs.** Programs can exercise flexibility in determining that clinical interns have fulfilled specific requirements for using the range of clinical procedures such as hydrotherapy treatments, physical examinations, etc.
4. **Didactic coursework.** Programs can use online/distance education technologies they consider necessary for continued course delivery of in-person classes that have been suspended. Standard requirements for the percentage of online coursework allowed (i.e. majority in-person) can be adjusted to address the needs of the ongoing COVID crisis for students in all levels of naturopathic training.

Sincerely,

AANMC Board of Directors

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