

## Public Comment on Draft Revised Standards

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### Comment:

Greetings! I am commenting on behalf of the Board of Directors of the **Washington Association of Naturopathic Physicians** (WANP), as the current Executive Director of the organization.

First, we are grateful for the opportunity to submit feedback. The Board of Directors had a lively discussion about the proposed changes at our meeting on Tuesday. I will do my best to provide a summary of the discussion.

In general, WANP's Board of Directors is in agreement with the need for these draft changes, though there was some disagreement about what the changes should be.

The majority of the Board felt like establishing parameters and expectations around the amount of clinical education that can occur via virtual methods is an important step in ensuring competent future doctors. Regarding Standard VI, Section D, part 2, at least one Board member expressed concern at limiting the amount of virtual visits to 25% was unnecessarily restrictive. This person expressed concern for both faculty and students who felt uncomfortable returning to in-person training for whatever reasons and worried that our profession would lose competent teachers by forcing them back into in person classrooms sooner than they are ready.

Many other Board members expressed serious concern about students they are working with as preceptors and recent graduates of the local naturopathic medical program, sharing their perceptions that these students are significantly behind their earlier classmates in their learning - particularly when it comes to physical exam and clinical reasoning. These Board members were in support of CNME issuing some standards and limitations on virtual instruction - especially clinical training and patient contacts - though all acknowledged they do not know if 25% is the right number or whether it should be higher or lower than that.

Once again, we appreciate your efforts to develop standards around the training and education of future naturopathic physicians and are grateful for the opportunity to weigh in.

While I realize this feedback does not give any clear recommendations for adjustments, the Board felt it valuable to at least let you all know what was discussed. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or need for clarification.

Angela Ross, ND

Executive Director, WANP