

Insurance Coverage of Alternative Medicine Who Are the Specialists?

As we enter the millenium years, it is evident that “alternative” forms of medicine are making their headway into the public’s notice. With requests for regulation of these forms of medicine which are already recognised in other parts of the world, the bottom line is “Buyer Beware”. There are many practitioners of alternative medicines who are not recognised by the overseeing bodies such as the Ontario Homeopathic Association. As the public educates itself as to the validity of the various alternative medicines, perhaps some clarification would help. **Naturopathic Doctors (ND)** train for four years in the areas of nutrition, chiropractic, herbals, iridology, acupuncture, water therapy and homeopathy. They are thus the “general practitioners” of alternative medicine. **Homeopathic Doctors (HD)** spend three to four years studying all of the medical sciences plus Homeopathic medicine exclusively. **Chiropractors, Chinese Medical Doctors, and Homeopathic Doctors** are **specialists in their areas of expertise**; their training reflecting the many hours of specialized study.

Insurance companies are beginning to provide coverage for alternative medicines. If you have **company insurance** at work that does not yet cover Homeopathy, then approach the **Director of Human Resources** to request inclusion of such in their coverage. For those of you with **private insurance companies**, if they do not yet cover Homeopathy, then they need educating. Homeopathic Doctors (HD)

train as specialists in their field. They use one form of medicine and train exclusively in that modality. It is simply ridiculous that naturopaths who study several modalities should be given insurance coverage and homeopaths denied such coverage. Luckily there are some enlightened Insurance firms that recognize this but work needs to be done to educate the rest.

The fees required to see a Homeopathic doctor are well reflected in the two hour long first case-taking to identify the symptoms and individualize medicines required by distinguishing mental and emotional states, causations such as accidents or emotional traumas in the past, and identifying various insults to the immune system. The medicines are inexpensive, certainly by conventional pharmacy standards and minimum numbers of doses are required. The follow-ups are usually on a monthly basis for evaluation of results and changes to medicines if required. You the people are the ones who need to request this wonderful form of medicine be covered by the corporate and private insurance companies.

It is a crime that those who cannot afford alternative medicine should be denied such care. That is an elitist healthcare system and is simply not acceptable. The choice is yours to have choice.