

Natural Medicine/ Wellness/ Bodywork

A. Occupations

- 1) Acupuncturist
- 2) Naturopath
- 3) Chiropractor
- 4) Chiropodist
- 5) Other positions in the field of natural medicine

B. Labour Market Prospects

C. ITPs in the Field

D. Links

A. Occupations

1) Acupuncturist

- Not a regulated profession in Ontario
- Certification available through the Acupuncture Council of Ontario
Acupuncture Council of Ontario www.aco-web.com

Role

Source: <http://www23.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/2001/e/groups/3232.shtml>

- Acupuncturists diagnose the diseases, physiological disorders and injuries of patients and treat them by the insertion of acupuncture needles or through the use of heat, pressure, electric current or rays of light.

Educational Requirements

Source: <http://www23.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/2001/e/groups/3232.shtml>

- Acupuncturists require completion of a training program in acupuncture may require some university undergraduate studies in science or training in a related health care discipline and may also require work experience under the supervision of a registered acupuncturist.
- Training program in acupuncture is offered by some Private colleges (i.e., Canadian Memorial Chiropractic college).

Skills/Qualities

Technical

- Basic computer skills: word processing, internet, email, presentation programs, spreadsheet manipulation and database knowledge
- Inserting acupuncture needles at precise points

Communication

- Good oral and written communication skills

Other

- Ability to establish rapport with patients and gain their trust and confidence
- Ethical, responsible and compassionate attitude
- Good organizational skills
- Good physical and mental health
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Ability to work independently and in a team

Typical Employers

- Most acupuncturists work in private practice, alone or in partnership with other health care professionals such as family physicians or chiropractors.

Average Hourly Wage

\$23.28/ hour (average)

Salaries vary according to such factors such as experience, level of responsibility, seniority, size of company, size of city, etc

2) Naturopath

- Regulated health profession in Ontario
- In order to practice Naturopathic Medicine in Ontario Naturopathic Doctors must be registered with the Board of Directors of Drugless Therapy - Naturopathic Medicine (BDDT-N)
<http://www.boardofnaturopathicmedicine.on.ca>

Role

Source: <http://www23.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/2001/e/groups/3123.shtml>

- Naturopaths diagnose patients' diseases and disorders and employ natural methods of healing such as acupuncture and acupressure, spinal manipulation, reflexology, hydrotherapy, herbal medicines, biochemical therapy, clinical nutrition, homeopathy and counselling in their treatment.

Educational Requirements

- Four-year program in naturopathic medicine. In Ontario the only accredited college of naturopathic medicine is the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine. Graduates receive a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine (ND) diploma
- Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine <http://www.ccnm.edu/about.html>

Skills/Qualities

Technical

- Basic computer skills: word processing, internet, email, presentation programs, spreadsheet manipulation and database knowledge

Communication

- Excellent oral and written communication skills

Other

- Ability to keep constantly updated in the specialty
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Emotional strength and maturity
- Ethical, responsible and compassionate attitude
- Good organizational skills

Typical Employers

- Most naturopathic doctors set up a private practice of their own or join a clinic with other health care practitioners. Some naturopathic doctors are employed in related research and development, marketing, teaching or consulting positions.

Average Hourly Wage

\$23.44/ hour (average) \$38.46/ hour (high) \$15.01/ hour(low)

3) Chiropractor

- Chiropractor is a regulated profession in Ontario - College of Chiropractors of Ontario
<http://www.cco.on.ca>

Role

Source: <http://www23.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/2001/e/groups/3122.shtml>

Chiropractors perform some or all of the following duties:

- Take patient's case history, conduct examination, observe patient and perform X-rays and other tests to diagnose patient's condition
- Diagnose neuromuscular-skeletal disorders of the spinal column, pelvis, extremities and associated tissues
- Treat health disorders in a natural manner through adjustments or articular manipulations and complementary treatments such as electrotherapy, nutrition, light and massage with special attention given to the spine
- Advise patients on corrective exercises, posture, lifestyle and nutrition
- Refer patients for medical care when appropriate.

Educational Requirements

- *Canada has only two chiropractic colleges: one in Toronto, the other in Trois-Rivieres, Quebec.*
- Students are required to complete a minimum of three years of university before they are eligible for admission to the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (CMCC) accredited program in Toronto. The CMCC program requires four years of full-time study, including a year-long internship in the College's clinics. In Quebec, the UQTR has a five-year program following graduation from a CÉGEP health science program.

Source: <http://www.ccachiro.org/client/cca/cca.nsf/web/Chiropractic+Education?OpenDocument>

Skills/Qualities

Technical

- Basic computer skills: word processing, internet, email, presentation programs, spreadsheet manipulation and database knowledge

Communication

- Excellent oral and written communication skills

Other

- Be empathetic, understanding, and have the desire to help others
- Good listening skills
- Good health, physical endurance
- Good stress management skills
- Good organizational skills
- Have high degree of manual dexterity

Typical Employers

Source: http://www.ilc.org/cfmx/CM/Careers/cm_career.cfm?career_id=198&letter=C&career_type=alpha

Chiropractors are usually self-employed, working in private practice or as partners in a group clinic. They may specialize in one area, for example, sports or rehabilitation therapy. Experienced chiropractors can find work as consultants, researchers, or educators.

Average Hourly Wage

\$24.62 (average) \$33.23 (high) \$14.62 (low)

Salaries vary according to such factors such as experience, level of responsibility, seniority, size of company, size of city, etc.

4) Chiropodist

- Chiropodist is a regulated profession in Ontario
- All persons working as chiropodists in Ontario must be registered with the College of Chiropodists of Ontario <http://www.cocoo.on.ca>

Role

Source: <http://www.itsnotagame.ca/>

Chiropodists and podiatrists are primary health care providers who are experts in the management of foot problems. They treat patients in a variety of ways including the use of braces, casts, shields, orthotic devices, physical therapy or surgery. Podiatrists and Chiropodists work to help patients eliminate foot pain, gain mobility, and maintain healthy feet. They treat sports injuries; common foot conditions such as corns, warts, ingrown toenails or calluses; foot infections that may result from medical conditions such as diabetes; and foot deformities and misalignments.

Educational Requirements

- Three-year diploma program in chiropody
- The Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences in Toronto is the only school in Canada to teach chiropody as an independent discipline. The University of Waterloo has a small kinesiology-chiropody degree program -- accommodating 10 students -- in conjunction with the Michener.

Skills/Qualities

Technical

- Basic computer skills: word processing, internet, email, presentation programs, spreadsheet manipulation and database knowledge

Communication

- Excellent oral and written communication skills

Other

- Good organizational skills
- Good physical and mental health
- Kindliness and empathy
- Good stress management skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team

Typical Employers

<http://www.michener.ca/ft/chiroprady.php>

Although most Chiropodists work in private practice, they have a wide range of practice options including:

- Hospitals, where Chiropodists complement the work of the medical team, for example in diabetic, pediatric, orthopedic, neurological and rheumatology departments and outpatient clinics.

- Multi-disciplinary health clinics, where foot care plays a particularly important role in maintaining the mobility of the elderly, the physically and mentally disabled, children and expectant mothers.
- Private foot clinics, where the whole spectrum of foot disorders may be present. Chiropractors may also make house calls when patients are unable to visit the hospital or clinic.
- Industry often provides chiropody service as part of the quality of life program for their employees, and orthotics companies need sales and management personnel
- Long term care facilities, where foot care is particularly important in keeping patients mobile and can dramatically affect their quality of life.
- Sporting events, such as the Olympic Games, the World Cup or the Boston Marathon, where a Chiropractor may be in attendance. Many sports clubs also have a consultant Chiropractor.

Average Hourly Wage

\$13.79 (average) \$20.35 (high)

5) Other Positions in the Field of the Natural Medicine / Wellness/ Bodywork

Chiropractic Health Assistant is a chiropractic support personnel who work with chiropractors. There are currently no community college-based chiropractic health assistant training programs. As the position of chiropractic health assistant is not regulated, a candidate without prior training may be hired and will receive on-the-job training.

Chiropractor Assistant very often works with Chiropractors. There are no training programs specific to this job. Candidates are hired and receive on-the-job training.

Homeopathic Practitioner diagnoses illnesses and treat them by administering, in chemical or herbal form, a small dosage of the illness itself or by suggesting lifestyle changes. *Source:* <http://www23.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/2001/e/groups/3232.shtml>

Chinese medical practitioners diagnose the diseases, physiological disorders and injuries of patients and treat them using raw herbs and other medicines, dietary supplements or acupuncture. <http://www23.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/2001/e/groups/3232.shtml>

Traditional Osteopathy

- Osteopathy incorporates four distinctive sub-disciplines—osteo-articular adjustments, cranial-sacral, fascial release and visceral normalization. The palpatory ability to evaluate and treat the human body at a highly sophisticated manual level, is what distinguishes osteopathy from all other forms of medicine and therapy.
Training is available through the Canadian College of Osteopathy <http://www.osteopathy-canada.com>
- Note: Osteopathic training in Canada is not to be confused with the training of osteopaths or osteopathic physicians trained in the United States. Those trained in the US diagnose disorders and injuries of the musculo-skeletal, circulatory and nervous systems and treat patients with manipulative therapy, medications or surgery. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario recognizes Osteopaths trained in accredited medical schools in the United States as having a degree that is equivalent to a medical degree obtained in Canada.

Reflexologists apply gentle finger pressure to specific spots on the clients' hands or feet to promote relaxation and better health and well-being.

Rolfers systematically manipulate various parts of the body such as the legs and shoulders in order to realign the structure of the body and reduce chronic pain and stress.

Herbalists advise patients on the use of herbs for the treatment of conditions such as arthritis, rheumatism, asthma, skin disorders and stomach ailments and may sell these herbs.

B) Labour Market Prospects

Source: <http://www1.on.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/ojf/ojf.jsp?lang=e§ion=Profile&noc=3122>

Employment for Chiropractors is expected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations through the year 2007, due to the increasing demand for alternative forms of medical treatment. The growing older population, with their increased likelihood of mechanical and structural problems, will also increase demand.

Source: <http://jobfutures.ca/noc/312p3.shtml>

Work prospects for Naturopaths continue to be rated GOOD as an average employment growth rate will likely occur because of ongoing trends--a growing and aging population that should require more care and more Canadians with insurance for these services. The rate of retirement and employee turnover will likely be more than twice the average. Also, the number of job openings will likely be greater than the number of recent graduates/immigrants.

Source:

http://www.labourmarketinformation.ca/standard.asp?ppid=84&lcode=E&prov=35&gaid=4663&occ=3232&search_key=3&search_type=1&employer_potential=1&new_search=1

The government does not regulate Reflexologists and Homeopaths. Since they are not regulated, they are not covered by OHIP. Therefore, demand for the occupation is limited, making it difficult for some to maintain a full-time practice.

C) ITPs in the Field

Acupuncturist

Some ITPs with previous acupuncture experience are most suited to this job.

Chiropractor and Chiropodist

Orthopedic specialists and general surgeons with their knowledge of the skeletal system, including the bones in the foot have skills relevant to this field and tend to be most prepared to work in this field.

Naturopathic and Homeopathic Medicine

May be of interest to General Practitioners and ITPs with a background in natural healing.

D) Links

Educational Institutions

- Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (CMCC), Toronto <http://www.cmcc.ca/>
- Acupuncture Foundation of Canada Institute <http://www.afcinstitute.com/about.html>
- Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine <http://www.ccnm.edu/about.html>
- Approved School of Naturopathy <http://www.boardofnaturopathicmedicine.on.ca/schools.html>
- Chiropody Diploma Program, Michener Institute <http://www.michener.ca/ft/chiropody.php>
- Toronto School of Traditional Chinese Medicine <http://schools.naturalhealers.com/tstcm/>

Professional Organizations

- Acupuncture Council of Ontario www.aco-web.com
- Board of Directors of Drugless Therapy - Naturopathic Medicine (BDDT-N) www.boardofnaturopathicmedicine.on.ca
- Ontario Association of Naturopathic Doctors <http://www.oand.org/client/oand/oand.nsf/web/Commonly+Asked+Questions?OpenDocument>
- Canadian Chiropractic Association <http://www.ccachiro.org/client/cca/cca.nsf/web/Chiropractic+in+the+Health+Care+System!OpenDocument>
- College of Chiropractors of Ontario www.cco.on.ca
- College of Chiropodists of Ontario <http://www.cocoo.on.ca>
- Ontario Society of Chiropodists <http://www.ontariochiropodist.com/>

Related Web Sites

- Job Future <http://jobfutures.ca/noc/323p1.shtml>
- OCAS http://www.ontariocolleges.ca/pls/portal30/url/page/OCAS_ProgramSearch_Search
- Career Matters http://www.ilc.org/cfm/CM/Careers/cm_career.cfm?career_id=198&letter=C&career_type=alpha
- Career Connection Article on Chiropody http://www.canoe.ca/CareerConnectionNews/040121_health.html
- Natural Healer <http://www.naturalhealers.com/index.php>