



## Salish Natural Products Policy

Salish Cancer Center maintains a Natural Products Pharmacy (NPP) exclusively for our patients that provides specific professional-line quality supplements prescribed by our naturopathic physicians. Our doctors prescribe unique products at different times throughout a patient's care, prioritizing recommendations based on the most current needs. As such, our dispensary operates as a pharmacy, and patients do not pay any sales tax. One can also use a Health Savings Account (HSA) to pay for products since they are directly prescribed by a physician.

As a dedicated pharmacy, the following regulations apply:

- a. Only items that have been prescribed can be dispensed
- b. Prescriptions expire either at one year, or sooner, as indicated on the prescription
- c. Once a prescription expires, a visit is required to review labs, other medications, etc. to make the most safe and appropriate new prescription recommendations
- d. If there has been a change in a patient's conventional oncology treatment or significant change to their physical state of health since their last ND visit, a follow up visit is required either in person or on the phone as supplement safety and appropriateness must subsequently be re-evaluated.
- e. We do not prescribe supplements to patients who call in with acute illnesses or other primary care conditions outside of their cancer diagnosis. We are happy to refer patients to primary care physicians including local NDs who offer the level of care required for these diagnoses.

Products in our NPP have been independently verified to ensure optimal quality, and these manufacturers set the standard for all natural product companies. The FDA currently does not require natural supplement companies be held to quality or purity standards for supplements sold in the US, and a GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) label on a product does not assure its verity or purity. Using only high quality supplements is important for several reasons.

- First, studies show that approximately 70% of supplements fail to meet label claims for potency and purity, thereby putting our patients at greater risk for toxicity and potential interference with other medications and treatments.
- Second, patients undergoing active treatment for their cancer require that their symptoms be controlled swiftly and effectively to prevent a break in treatment or further complications.
- Lastly, if a condition still exists after a treatment has been prescribed it is difficult for our doctors to differentiate between a recommended treatment not working vs. an inferior supplement brand not eliciting the desired effect. Our doctors may also recommend products outside of our NPP if there are reputable alternatives, or if we don't carry a prescribed product.

Our goal is to offer pure, effective and safe products to our patients at a reasonable price point. We appreciate your respect of our rules and regulations when ordering supplements from us and look forward to serving your needs in this manner.