

**EPRIMAND, SUSPENSION AND
CONDITIONS
ARNOLD HETHERINGTON
HRM, NOVA SCOTIA
CLPNNS REG # 8653**



On July 4, 2008, the Discipline Committee of the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia (the College) accepted a Settlement Agreement agreed upon by the College and Arnold Hetherington, and recommended by the Complaints Committee of the College.

The Settlement Agreement was advanced pursuant to Section 25 of the Licensed Practical Nurses Regulations. In the Settlement Agreement Mr. Hetherington admitted to the following allegations and admitted they constituted professional misconduct:

He engaged in inappropriate behavior by taking a patient “out on pass” without written permission;

He made an unprofessional and inappropriate comment to a patient; and

He demonstrated a lack of understanding for the patient’s right to refuse care and violated the College’s Standards of Practice in that he failed to “respect a client’s right to make informed decisions”, and he violated the College’s Code of Ethics by failing to promote a “client’s right to make choices”.

Mr. Hetherington had no prior disciplinary history with the College, and received several written statements of support from colleagues concerning his compassionate nursing care and strong work ethic.

The Discipline Committee reviewed the above admissions and noted Mr. Hetherington demonstrated a lack of insight with respect to each of these matters. The Discipline Committee ordered that Mr. Hetherington be reprimanded and that his licence to practice be suspended for a period of three (3) months commencing the 4th day of July, 2008 and ending on the 4th day of October, 2008. The Committee further imposed the condition that Mr. Hetherington cannot return to his previous unit of employment, and the Committee further required that Mr. Hetherington complete the “Introduction to Nursing” course at the Nova Scotia Community College by December 31, 2008. The “Introduction to Nursing” course covers elements respecting standards of practice, ethical duties, boundary issues and issues of professional responsibility and accountability. The Discipline Committee maintained jurisdiction over the matter pending Mr. Hetherington’s successful completion of this course.

The Settlement Agreement provides that for a period of two (2) years following the lifting of his suspension, a copy of the Discipline Committee’s Decision shall be provided to any of his employers. The Decision further provides that upon inquiry from any licensing body in any other jurisdiction, the College shall provide a copy of the full Settlement Agreement to the other jurisdiction in response to questions concerning Mr. Hetherington’s licensing status.