

Position Statement

Use of Protected Title

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia (CLPNNS), or the College, is the regulatory body for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) in Nova Scotia. The College's mandate is to protect the public by promoting the provision of safe, competent, ethical, and compassionate nursing care. The College sets, monitors and enforces standards for entry into the profession, practical nursing education, registration and professional conduct. The College creates LPN Standards of Practice, establishes a Code of Ethics, develops and implements a Continuing Competence Program, and publishes policies and interpretive documents to support the practice of practical nursing in Nova Scotia.

Using this Document

Position statements are documents which reflect the view taken by the College about a particular nursing or health care issue, trend or external stakeholder policy. This document was developed to help licensed practical nurses understand the College's position on the use of a protected title. It is designed to be used in conjunction with the LPN Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics and all practice guidelines and position statements found on the College website at www.clpnns.ca.

Purpose

This document will review the legislative and regulatory expectations regarding appropriate use of a protected title. It is important for LPNs to be aware of their professional expectations and accountabilities when using a protected title.



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Protected Title

A protected title is part of the contract between the government and the practical nursing profession. Through the Licensed Practical Nurses Act, the government grants the practical nursing profession exclusive rights to the Licensed Practical Nurse title and its designation. It is protected because only those who qualify as an LPN are granted the privilege to use the title.

Public Safety

A protected title helps the College achieve its mandate of public protection because only qualified practitioners may use it. The public can be assured practitioners using a protected title have met, and continue to meet annual licensure requirements indicating they can provide safe, competent, ethical and compassionate nursing services. Individuals who unlawfully use titles or designations relating to practical nursing are placing the public at risk and negatively impacting the practical nursing profession.

Using a Protected Title

Only current, actively licensed members of the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia can use the title(s) Licensed Practical Nurse or Practical Nurse or the designations LPN or PN.

Graduate Practical Nurse

Newly graduated nurses having completed all other elements of the registration and licensure process, may apply for a Graduate Practical Nurse license. Once granted, they may use the title Graduate Practical Nurse or designation GPN while waiting to write and receive results from the national registration exam.

Improper Use of a Protected Title

Individuals who use the title of Licensed Practical Nurse, or any deviation of, without maintaining current registration with CLPNNS may be subject to legal action under Section 24 of the Licensed Practical Nurses Act (2006). Former or retired members may not use the LPN designation if they do not hold active licensure.

Other Protected Titles relating to LPNs

The title Nurse (in the context of care delivery) is a protected title under the Registered Nurses Act. It may not be used by any person unless that person is a registered nurse, nurse practitioner, licensed practical nurse, or a student in a program approved by the College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia (CRNNS) or CLPNNS.

Application to Practice

- Your professional signature includes your first initial, followed by your last name and designation. For example: J. Smith, LPN.
- Other credentials may be added after the LPN designation. For example, J. Smith, LPN, BA.
- Your professional introduction includes your name and title/designation. For example: “Good morning I am Jane (or Ms. /Mrs.) Smith. I am a Licensed Practical Nurse (or an LPN) and I will be caring for you today.”



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