

Supporting Excellence in Practical Nursing Practice

A guide for LPNs

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.

The College supports LPNs through a variety of processes, services and tools. Supporting LPNs in their practice is one way the College meets its mandate to ensure clients receive safe nursing services from LPNs.

Protected Title

A **protected title** is part of the contract between the government and the practical nursing profession. Through the LPN Act, the government grants the practical nursing profession exclusive rights to use the LPN title. A protected title helps the College achieve its mandate of public safety because only qualified practitioners may use it. Individuals who unlawfully use titles relating to practical nursing are placing the public at risk and negatively impacting the practical nursing profession.

Liability Insurance

Professional liability insurance protects LPNs from incidents arising from their work as a Licensed Practical Nurse in Canada. The insurance protects LPNs from claims coming from actual or alleged negligence caused by the failure to render professional services. It includes coverage for legal defense costs and potential indemnification payments. The cost of this insurance is covered in your annual renewal fee.



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Professional Practice Consultations

Every day, professional practice consultants provide in-person, group, phone or email advice ([Ask a Practice Consultant](#)) for LPNs and other stakeholders about professional practice issues. A professional practice issue is any situation, action, behaviour that actually or potentially, directly or indirectly inhibits, disrupts, or prevents the delivery of safe, competent, compassionate or ethical care. Issues may also be situations, actions or behaviours that actually or potentially, directly or indirectly support, encourage or perpetuate the delivery of care that is not consistent with best practice guidelines, standards of practice, code of ethics or employer policy. On average, the College engages in approximately 800–1,000 consultations annually.

Continuing Competence Program (CCP)

The [Continuing Competence Program](#) (CCP) is a formal way of validating an LPN's competence. CCPs are considered to be best practice; however they are not new or unique to nursing. Most regulated health professions in Canada have a CCP. The competence program provides a level of assurance to the public that LPNs are continuously meeting their professional practice standards, which supports the College to achieve its mandate of public protection. Participation in CCP has been an annual registration requirement for LPNs in Nova Scotia since 2010.

Practice Support Documents and Resources

The College defines practice through the creation of [documents](#) and [other resources](#) to support LPNs in their practice. Regardless of the type or goal of the document, their intended purpose is to help LPNs make practice decisions so they consistently meet their standard of practice and provide safe and competent nursing services.

Online Learning

The College is pleased to offer [online learning modules](#) to LPNs in Nova Scotia. The College creates these learning opportunities to support LPNs by providing them with current and relevant information about their practice. LPNs are better informed after completing these modules and as such, more prepared to make appropriate care decisions as they provide safe, competent, ethical and compassionate nursing services to clients.

Advocacy

The College supports LPNs in Nova Scotia to advocate for: practice environments which support the delivery of safe, competent, ethical and, compassionate nursing services, and; the development of health policies or initiatives supporting LPNs to use their full depth of knowledge, skill and judgment.

Engaging the Membership

The College reaches out to LPNs in a number of ways, seeking input, feedback, consultation and, encouraging participation in important self-regulation functions. The [college website](#) is a dynamic clearing house of important practice related information. Members can navigate the site or easily search for content using the embedded search engine. The [College Reporter](#) is the newsletter published and emailed to each LPN quarterly. [Online annual registration renewal](#) opens every year around the first of August. A valid email address is required for renewal and for communication purposes. The College primarily communicates with members by email because electronic communication is efficient, cost effective and environmentally sound.

Conclusion

The College supports and encourages LPNs to work to their full scope of practice within the clinical parameters defined by employers through policies and procedures. Regulating LPNs in the best interest of the public is the important mandate of the college. The College accomplishes this through a variety of core functions ensuring the objects associated with public protection, as outlined in the LPN act, are satisfied. The goal of [self-regulation](#) is the delivery of safe and competent nursing services. Every licensed practical nurse contributes to self-regulation by upholding the standards of practice and code of ethics developed by the college. In doing this, LPNs earn public trust. Maintaining public trust and confidence is why self-regulation is important.

To meet their obligation to protect the public, the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia is responsible to develop guidelines and interpretative documents that assist LPNs to meet their Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics and support them in the provision of safe, competent, ethical, and compassionate nursing services.



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