

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia

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 practice. The College sets, monitors and enforces standards for entry into the profession, practical nurse education, registration and professional conduct. The College creates 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 licensed practical nurses in Nova Scotia. The Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics were developed by the Canadian Council of Practical Nurse Regulators (CCPNR) and approved and adopted by CLPNNS Board of Directors, September 2013.

Professional Self-Regulation

Professional self-regulation is a privilege granted to LPNs through legislation. It is the process of establishing standards of practice and code of conduct for the members of the practical nursing profession.

The Goal of Self-Regulation

The goal of self-regulation is protection of the public through the creation of standards and a code that outline the elements of safe, competent, ethical and compassionate nursing care. LPNs earn public trust when they up-hold their standards of practice and code of ethics as part of the self-regulatory process. Maintaining public trust and confidence is of utmost importance to self-regulation.

Code of Ethics

The Code of Ethics articulates the ethical values and responsibilities that LPNs uphold and promote, and to which they are accountable. The LPNs' primary responsibility is to the client within the context of an inter-professional collaborative environment.

PRINCIPLE 1:

Responsibility to the Public

Licensed Practical Nurses, as self-regulating professionals, commit to provide safe, effective, compassionate and ethical care to members of the public.

PRINCIPLE 2:

Responsibility to Clients

Licensed Practical Nurses provide safe and competent care for their clients.

PRINCIPLE 3:

Responsibility to the Profession

Licensed Practical Nurses have a commitment to their profession and foster the respect and trust of their clients, health care colleagues and the public.

PRINCIPLE 4:

Responsibility to Colleagues

Licensed Practical Nurses develop and maintain positive, collaborative relationships with nursing colleagues and other health professionals.

PRINCIPLE 5:

Responsibility to Self

Licensed Practical Nurses recognize and function within their personal and professional competence and value systems.

Standards of Practice

The Standards of Practice are authoritative statements that define the legal and professional expectations of LPN practice in Nova Scotia. They describe the elements of quality LPN practice. The standards are applicable to LPNs in all settings.

Principles

Six principles provide the foundation on which the Standards were developed.

1. LPNs are self-regulating and accountable for providing safe, competent, compassionate and ethical care within the legal and ethical framework of nursing regulation.
2. LPNs are autonomous practitioners who work in collaborative relationships with colleagues in health care to assess, plan and deliver quality nursing services.
3. LPN practice is client centred and includes individuals, families, groups and communities.
4. LPN standards are broadly based and address variations in client needs, provider competence, experience and environmental factors.
5. LPN standards allow for growth in the profession to meet changing approaches, treatments and technologies within the health care system.
6. LPN standards encourage leadership through self-awareness and reflection, commitment to individual and professional growth, and promotion of the best possible service to the public.

STANDARD 1:

Professional Accountability and Responsibility

Licensed Practical Nurses are accountable for their practice and responsible for ensuring that their practice and conduct meet both the standards of the profession and legislative requirements.

STANDARD 2:

Knowledge-Based Practice

Licensed Practical Nurses possess knowledge obtained through practical nurse preparation and continuous learning relevant to their professional LPN practice.

STANDARD 3:

Service to the Public and Self-Regulation

Licensed Practical Nurses practice nursing in collaboration with clients and other members of the health care team to provide and improve health care services in the best interests of the public.

STANDARD 4:

Ethical Practice

Licensed Practical Nurses uphold, promote and adhere to the values and beliefs as described in the Canadian Council for Practical Nurse Regulators (CCPNR) Code of Ethics.