



The College Reporter

Message from the Executive Director

“Celebrate your knowledge and skill.”

I recently had the opportunity to attend a conference with guest speaker, Suzanne Gordon, an award winning journalist and author. She stated in her introduction, *“I have written about nursing for over 20 years, but, I am not a nurse, I only know nursing.”*

As part of her presentation, she challenged nurses in the room *“to celebrate their knowledge and skill and to forget about the hearts and flowers.”* She was very thought provoking and I wanted to share some of her thoughts with you.

Gordon stated that often clients judge nurses on how sweet they are, but, they don’t know just how intelligent nurses are and what they are capable of. She spoke of the media and how it stereotypes nursing, *“nurses can’t control the media, but they can stop reinforcing traditional stereotypes. Every time a nurse goes into a client’s room, there’s an opportunity to teach the client about the power of nursing. Please do not miss that opportunity to celebrate nursing.”*

Gordon stated, *“Getting back to the hearts and flowers, they demean and trivialize and minimize nurses’ extraordinary knowledge and skill. Nurses need to make it clear to the public that caring is brain work – they need to wear their brains, not their hearts, on their sleeves.”*

“Caring is not just about being a good listener; it’s knowing what to listen for.” S Gordon
To learn more about Ms Gordon visit her blog at www.suzannegordon.com”.

Highlights from Board Meeting

(September 25, 2009)

- Review of new LPN Act , Regulations and Bylaws
- Update on election process, Nominations due October 9th
- Update on H1N1 and Emergency Plan
- Approval Professional Conduct Policies
- Three (3) year approval NSCC Practical Nurse curriculum
- Reports from Education and Finance Committee(s)
- Date for 2010 AGM and Awards, 26-27th May 2010, Halifax.

New Board Members Wanted

“Exercise your right to vote.”

The College is seeking new Board members for a two (2) year term beginning in January 2010. Nomination forms have been sent to LPNs residing in Districts 1, 2 and 6.

Information on the nominees and a ballot will be sent to LPNs in those districts. All ballots are to be returned by 4 p.m., November 13, 2009.

Dirty Hands Spread Infections

Did you know that hand hygiene is considered the most efficient way to prevent the spread of the H1N1 virus?

The Public Health Agency of Canada and Public Health Services, DOH, Health Promotion and Protection have established infection prevention and control measures to prevent the spread of H1N1. For the well being of clients, your families, colleagues and yourself:

Use antiseptic hand rinse or wash your hands with soap and water prior to entering hospitals and long term facilities, prior to providing client care, and once again prior to leaving or immediately after completing client care.

Contain your cough or sneeze by using your sleeve – not your hands.

Stay home when sick, i.e., experiencing influenza-like illness.

Symptoms include:

- Respiratory illness and cough with/without fever and with one or more of the following:
 1. sore throat
 2. sore joints
 3. sore muscles
 4. extreme fatigue

Get your annual influenza vaccine!

For further information and updates visit www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/flu





License Renewals

License renewals for 2010 (without penalty) will be accepted through 4:00 p.m. on **Friday, October 30, 2009**. Effective Monday, November 2, 2009, a late fee of \$25.00 will apply. Registration forms with payment post dated to October 31, 2009 will not be processed until Monday, November 2, 2009.

Reminder: Any forms that are incomplete will be returned. With the proclamation of the new legislation, any LPN found to be working while not currently licensed, may be subject to a fine as well as the late penalty charge.

Changes to the LPN Act and Regulations

As of 1 May 2009, a new Licensed Practical Nurse Act (LPN) and Regulations were proclaimed. Effective immediately the LPN Act of 2001 was replaced with the LPN Act (2006).

The new Act brought significant change(s) to the practice of LPNs and the College. Highlights are:

Objects of the College

Old LPN Act (2001):

In order that the public interest may be served and protected, the objects and purpose of this Act are to empower the College to regulate the practice of licensed practical nurses through:

- Setting standards for admission to practical nursing programs
- Setting standards for practical nurse education
- Setting standards for practical nurse program approval
- Setting standards for registration and licensing
- Setting standards for practice
- Setting standards for professional conduct processes
- Establishing and promoting a code of ethics and standards of practice.

New LPN Act (2006):

All of the above and expanded to include:

- “Preservation of the integrity of the practical nursing profession and maintenance of public confidence in the ability of the practical nursing profession to regulate itself.”

This change supports the College as a self regulatory body.

Definition of Practical Nursing

Old LPN Act (2001):

The definition “Practice of Practical Nursing” means the provision of

nursing services, as defined by the educational preparation and level of competence for the purpose of:

- assessing, implementing and evaluating services
- promotion health
- preventing illness, and
- assisting individuals, families and groups to achieve an optimal state of health

All of which must be done under the general direction of a registered nurse or medical practitioner.

New LPN Act (2006):

the practice of practical nursing has been expanded upon to include a definition of “nursing services” which means the application of practical nursing theory in the:

- assessment of clients
- collaboration in the development of the nursing plan of care
- implementation of the nursing plan of care; and
- on-going evaluation of the client... for the purpose of...
- promoting health
- preventing illness
- providing palliative and rehabilitative care, and
- assisting clients to achieve an optimal state of health.

The expanded definition permits the practice of practical nursing to be:

- independent for clients considered stable with predictable outcomes, and
- under the guidance or direction of a registered nurse, medical practitioner or other health professional authorized to provide that direction or guidance.

Registration and Licensing

Old Regulations:

There were three classes of licensing, active practicing, temporary and graduate practical nurse.

New Regulations:

The classes have expanded to “rosters” and include all of the above and including active practising with conditions/restrictions.

Board Membership

Old LPN Act (2001):

The Board of the College consisted of 4 public representatives, 5 LPNs elected per district, 1 representative each from NSCC, College of Registered Nurses (CRNNS) and Doctors NS.

New LPN Act (2006):

The Board membership has been amended to include 4 public representatives, 6 LPNs elected via districts and 1 representative of CRNNS.

Professional Conduct

Old LPN Act (2001):

Members of the Board made up the Professional Conduct (Discipline) Committee and applications for reinstatement or registration appeal(s) were reviewed by the Board.

New LPN Act (2006):

Current sitting members of the Board cannot sit as a member of the Complaints or Professional Conduct panels and Reinstatement and Registration Appeal are new standing committees of the College.

Continuing Competence

Old LPN Act (2001):

- Definition of “continuing competence” and “a continuing competence program” included in the Act.
- New LPN Act (2006): Requires members to comply with a mandatory continuing competency program and permits validation/compliance. Failure to comply may result in a conditional license for 3 months in order to meet continuing competency requirements. Mandatory compliance, in the beginning stages, will begin with licensure/registration for 2010 and validation audits to begin in 2011-2012.



Congratulations are in order...

To the upcoming graduates of NSCC at Strait Richmond Campus, Port Hawkesbury who complete their two year diploma program in December, 2009 and who write the CPN RE exam in January 2010.

Best wishes as well to the new classes of practical nursing students at NSCC, Waterfront and Marconi Campuses and part time practical nursing students who began their program(s) in September.

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Oct 21-23, Canadian Federation of Mental Health Nurses National Conference – Hope, Health and Healing. Contact Jane Hughes, Conference Chair at jane@cbdha.nshealth.ca.

Oct 25-26, Atlantic Canada Conference, “The Feet We Greet,” for all health care professionals, sponsored by Foot Care Nurses of NS. For information: <http://esourceevent.comfcn2009>

Nov 12, 13, 12th Annual Education Symposium by the Community and Hospital Infection Control Association of NS – “Bringing It to the Bedside” For information contact www.chica.org/CHICA_NS/education.html

April 22-23, 2010, Nursing Leadership Conference, Holiday Inn, Dartmouth. More information will follow.

May 16-19, 2010, Canadian Orthopedic Nurses Association – Mayflower Chapter. For more information contact mail to: heather.mingo @cdha.nshealth.ca.

Professional Conduct

There were no professional conduct cases to be reported for this quarter.

Comments for the College

Please take this opportunity to provide your feedback on this newsletter or College endeavours.

On the College Role and Services

You Asked Us...

The Model of Care Initiative in NS (MOCINS) is moving very fast, especially in some District Health Authorities (DHAs). The role and scope of my job as an LPN is “practically different everyday.” As an LPN, I am being asked to take on certain tasks and roles that traditionally have been part of the role and scope of the registered nurse (RN). *“What should I be concerned with when asked to take on tasks and responsibilities that I may not have been educated in and/or know if they are in my scope?”*

Answer

In today’s ever changing Environment, the role and responsibilities of the licensed practical nurse can vary depending on the area of practice. Knowing when and how to perform a new procedure is vital to ensuring that you have the competency to provide safe, competent and ethical care. Before taking on a new role or responsibility be sure and consider the following guidelines:

Appropriate health care provider - LPNs who perform activities need to review the College’s Standards of Practice, Scope of Practice document, Competency Profile and employer policies to ensure that the activity in question is part of the LPN Scope of Practice

Authority – ensure that the activity requested fits within the LPN Scope of Practice and employer policies

Competence – every LPN is accountable to attain and maintain the competence

necessary to complete and perform procedures. Many LPNs pursue life long learning opportunities and obtain additional education as part of their employment. The community college and on-site in-service opportunities are a valuable resource

Outcomes – Every LPN assumes accountability for their own action and thus the outcome of any activity they perform. When a client’s care needs are complex and the outcome(s) unpredictable, the LPN should be collaborating and communicating with the RN to co-share the accountability for care/activity provided. Achieving and maintaining a quality proactive environment is a shared responsibility of the LPN and employer. LPNs can learn new procedures and take on new responsibilities when they are given the appropriate education and support to do so.

NEW

The Fair Registration Practices Act will be proclaimed soon. The Act is intended to help ensure that regulated professions are governed by registration practices that are transparent, impartial and fair.

And the winner is...

Jeanette Piche, LPN is our early bird winner and had her license registration fee reimbursed. Ms Piche, LPN had renewed with the College prior to 25 September 2009.

NSCC Continuing Education Catalogue (on-line)

The NSCC Continuing education course catalogue is now available. Please visit <http://www.nsc.ca/learningprograms/parttimefiles/nscCFogmetrocalendar.pdf>





Memo to Members

Clarification re: Continuing Competency Program (CCP)

Upon review of some of the 2010 registration forms, it would appear that there may be some confusion between “mandatory competencies” and their relationship with the continuing competency program.

Mandatory competencies- are a part of the continuing competency program and involves only those LPNs who do not have the “*Pharmacology and Administration of Medication*” program and the “*Health Assessment*” program. As part of the CCP, for those LPNs who do not have these programs, they will be required to complete by 2013.

For clarity, those LPNs requiring the Medication Administration program would be graduates from a NS program in the years 1982 -1992; graduates from practical nursing programs outside of NS, who did not have a course; and these LPNs are currently identified on their license as having “No Meds” **These are the only LPN members who will need to complete a Med Administration course by 2013 for the CCP.**

For the Health/ Physical Assessment course, the requirement to complete a Health Assessment course would be:

Graduates from a NS program prior to 2000; and Graduates from a practical nursing program, outside of NS, who did not have a course.

LPNs that have not completed a Health/ Physical assessment course will be required to take a course or show proof of having taken a course by 2013.

Continuing Competency Program- a new requirement under the LPN Act and brought forward with recent proclamation. (May 2009).

It may be helpful to read the four related practice guidelines on the college website www.clpnns.ca;

- “The Continuing Competency Program”,
- “Continuing Competence” ,
- “Supporting Excellence in Practical Nursing Practice” and
- “Archiving Your Career through Portfolio Development”.

Information regarding the CCP policies and the required forms for completion, will be available shortly along with a tutorial on our website .

Please share this information with your colleagues and keep reading your newsletters and checking the website for updates.

Please note that beginning with next years’ registration form (2011) in the section regarding” continuing competency requirements” if you leave blank or check no, you will be contacted by a CLPNNS representative for follow up action.

The continuing competency program is meant to assist you to “attain and maintain “competencies expected of an LPN.

Don’t hesitate to contact our office should you have any further questions or need any further clarification

Jylene Simmons-Gaudet, LPN
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CLPNNS
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MISSION

In the interest of the public, the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia, regulates the practice of Licensed Practical Nurses in the province.

VISION

A dynamically regulated profession committed to excellence

CLPNNS Office Hours

Holiday Season

Dec 24th – 0830 – 12 p.m.
Dec 25th – closed
Dec 26th – closed
Dec 29, 30th – 0830 – 12 p.m.
Jan 1, 2010 – closed

Regular office hours –

Monday –Friday 0830 – 4 p.m.

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