

# Expectations of Licensed Practical Nurses

## LPNs are expected to

- Practice according to Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics, College, and employer policies at all times.
- Continuously enhance their professional competency through life-long learning and self-reflection so that they may confidently, clearly and professionally identify and respond to clients' needs and/or communicate clients' needs to the health care team.
- Make safe, competent, ethical, and compassionate nursing decisions based on the findings of their assessment.
- Practice independently, collaboratively or with direction, or guidance in relation to their own capacity, the needs of the client and the supports in the practice environment.
- Act, and continue to act, until the situation has been addressed appropriately, improved, or resolved.
- Understand their own practice, as well as the practice of others and be confident in their ability to articulate their contributions to the health care environment.

## Contact Us to Learn More

### College of Licensed Practical Nurses

Suite 302, Starlite Gallery  
7071 Bayers Road  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3L 2C2

Phone (902) 423-8517  
Fax (902) 425-6811  
Toll Free in Nova Scotia 1-800-718-8517

[info@clpnns.ca](mailto:info@clpnns.ca)  
[www.clpnns.ca](http://www.clpnns.ca)



# What is a Licensed Practical Nurse?



The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia (CLPNNS) is the regulatory body for 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.

### There are three categories of professional nurses in Canada

- Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN)
- Registered Nurses (RN)
- Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPN)

### In Nova Scotia, there are two groups of professional nurses

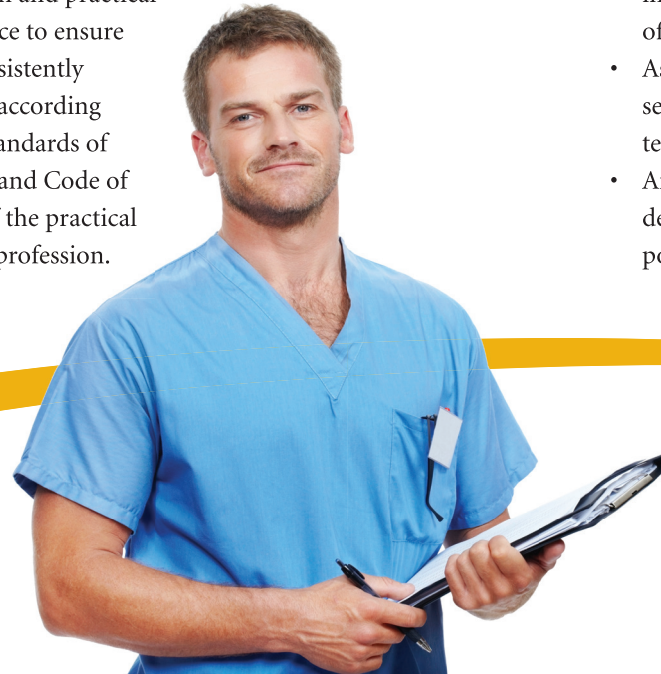
- Licensed Practical Nurses
- Registered Nurses

Each group has their own regulatory body.

## Self-Regulation

Self-regulation is a privilege granted to professions by the government through an act of legislation. Self-regulation recognizes that the profession is in the best position to determine standards for education and practice of its practitioners. Self-regulation safeguards the public by clearly determining competencies and qualifications required by individual members.

Licensed practical nurses are self-regulated professionals. To practice as a LPN in Nova Scotia, an individual must be a graduate of an approved practical nurse diploma program (or equivalent) and have successfully completed the Canadian Practical Nurses Registration Examination. As part of their commitment to self-regulation, LPNs are required to participate in an ongoing self-assessment of their knowledge and knowledge needs, and reflect on their learning as a means to maintaining competence throughout their career. It is essential for LPNs to engage in life-long learning to build on their education and practical experience to ensure they consistently practice according to the Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics of the practical nursing profession.



## Assumptions of Licensed Practical Nurse Practice

### LPNs

- Are accountable for their own actions at all times.
- Have core nursing knowledge to independently care for clients with an established plan of care.
- Practise autonomously within a collaborative relationship with an appropriate health care provider, such as registered nurse, nurse practitioner, or physician.
- Are educated to meet national entry to practice competencies, however are expected to maximize their individual competencies throughout their career.
- Advance their own practice by acquiring advanced clinical skills and knowledge through post basic education and/or clinical experience.
- Are an integral part of the health care team; accountable to provide safe, competent, ethical, compassionate and evidenced-based care to individuals, families, and communities in a variety of settings and across the life-span.
- Assume multiple roles when they provide nursing services for clients, including direct care provider, teacher/mentor or facilitator.
- Are leaders who advocate for, or participate in, the development of quality practice environments and policy development.