

Frequently Asked Questions for Internationally Educated Nurses

Internationally Educated Nurses

1. What is a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)?

There are 2 kinds of nurses in Nova Scotia: Registered Nurses (RN) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN). LPNs practise autonomously within a collaborative relationship with an appropriate health care provider, such as registered nurse, nurse practitioner, or physician. LPNs are self-regulated health care professionals who have core nursing knowledge to independently care for clients with an established plan of care. Click the link to view the 'What is an LPN' brochure http://clpnns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/WhatIsLPNBrochure_Nov18.pdf .

2. What does self-regulated mean?

Professional self-regulation is when an occupational group formally regulates the activities of its members. Professions self-regulate because their specialized body of knowledge positions them to be most appropriate to develop standards for education and practice and to ensure these standards are met. In Nova Scotia, all nurses are self-regulated. The goal of self-regulation is the delivery of safe and competent services by the members of the profession based on principles that regulations promote good practice, prevent poor practice, and intervene when practice is unacceptable. Click the link to view more information about self-regulation <http://clpnns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/PPS-Self-Regulation1.pdf> .

3. What are the differences between an RN and LPN?

RNs and LPNs study from the same body of nursing knowledge, however, RNs study longer and have a more in-depth knowledge base. RNs make nursing care decisions independently for any client regardless of the client's level of predictability or complexity. LPNs make nursing care decisions independently for clients who have known and established health problems and predictable outcomes. Click on the link for more information about the RNs and LPNs in Collaborative Practice Environment http://clpnns.ca/sites/default/files/collab_practice_envIRON.pdf .

4. Do I need a license to practice as an LPN in Nova Scotia?

Yes. Registration with the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia (CLPNNS) is required to practice as an LPN.

5. How do I get a work visa?

Work Visas are obtained through the Office of Immigration. The College does not issue work visas. Click the link to view "Information for New Immigrants" <http://clpnns.ca/immigrating-to-nova-scotia/>.

6. How do I qualify for an LPN license in Nova Scotia?

To qualify for an LPN license in Nova Scotia you must have graduated from a school of practical nursing or practical nursing equivalent, completed the application process through National Nursing Assessment Service (NNAS) and successfully passed the Canadian Practical Nursing Registration Exam (CPNRE). Click the link to view more information www.nnas.ca.

7. How long does the licensing process take?

The licensing process does not begin until the College receives copies of your documents from NNAS and you have applied to CLPNNS and your fees are paid. Once complete, your application will be reviewed to ensure that your education is substantially equal to an LPN's education here in

<p>Nova Scotia. The length of time will vary between applicants based on the type and nature of the evaluations that are required.</p>
<p>8. Do I send my documents directly to the College? No. All of your documents must be sent directly to NNAS.</p>
<p>9. How much does the licensing process cost? Costs will vary. There is a fee to be paid directly to NNAS and there are separate costs associated with applying to CLPNNS and any remedial education or assessment that may be required.</p>
<p>10. English is not my first language. Can I qualify for LPN license? In order to qualify for a license, you must meet the English Proficiency language requirements. Click the link to view information about the English Proficiency http://www.nnas.ca/faq/.</p>
<p>11. I was licensed as a nurse in my home country, however I did not work. Will this impact the process? Yes. If you have not practiced as a nurse within the last 3-5 years, you may have to complete a LPN re-entry program.</p>
<p>12. I completed my nursing education; however I did not register or get a nursing license in my home country. Will this impact the process? Yes. Applicants who have not obtained initial licensure in their home country will need to provide verification of eligibility for licensure as part of the NNAS application.</p>
<p>13. My nursing education was not at the university or college level. Will I qualify for an LPN license? Education that was not at the university or college level will not meet the nursing education standard. Click the link to view information about education requirements http://www.nnas.ca/faq/</p>
<p>14. I have a nursing license in another province; can I transfer it to Nova Scotia? The Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) legislation allows for your license to be transferred from one province to another. Occasionally there are variances in education requirements for LPNs in other provinces. If you do not fully meet the educational requirements for LPNs in Nova Scotia, you will be granted a license with <i>Conditions and Restrictions</i> which will allow to you work while you complete the necessary education.</p>
<p>15. I am educated in another health profession. Can I qualify for an LPN license? In order to qualify for an LPN license in Nova Scotia, you must graduate from an approved practical nursing or nursing program.</p>
<p>16. What is an “Advisory Report”? It is the report from NNAS regarding your education and practice that will be forwarded to CLPNNS. Click the link to view more information about the Advisory Report http://www.nnas.ca/faq/.</p>
<p>17. What is a Substantive Equivalent Competency Assessment (SECA)? Where can I have this done and what is the cost? The Substantive Equivalent Competency Assessment (SECA) is an assessment of your clinical competency. The purpose of the SECA to determine if your clinical skills are substantially equivalent to an LPN in Nova Scotia. It is performed by a faculty member from the practical</p>

nursing program at Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) either in simulation (nursing laboratory) or practicum (faculty lead clinical experience). Depending on the level of assessment the SECA can take 1 to 1.5 days and may cost up to \$2500.00 CAD.

Not every applicant is required to complete a SECA. There is no way of knowing that a SECA is required until your NNAS Advisory Report is reviewed. If a SECA is required, you will be referred to the community college to have this completed.

18. Can I work while the process is ongoing?

You cannot work as an LPN until you have been granted a license to practice.

19. Do all IENs have to write Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Exam (CPNRE)?

Yes.

20. Can I write the CPNRE in my home country?

No. Currently, the CPNRE may only be written in Canada.

21. How many times can I write the CPNRE?

The CPNRE can be written up to 3 times.

22. Is the CPNRE online?

No. Currently, the CPNRE is only available by paper exam. A computer based test (CBT) will be available in 2016.

23. How much does the exam cost?

\$ 350.00 CAD

24. I have written and passed NCLEX. Do I have to write CPNRE?

Yes.

25. I have applied for a license in another jurisdiction/other College, will this impact the process?

This will slow the process. Applicants should consider applying to one regulatory authority at a time.