

About the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia

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 purpose is to protect the public by promoting the provision of safe, competent, ethical, and compassionate nursing services. The college sets, monitors and enforces standards for entry into the profession, practical nurse education, registration, and professional conduct.

Self-Regulation

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 college first achieved self-regulation with the *Licensed Practical Nurse Act* of 2002.

Licensed practical nurses participate in self-regulation through the college as the regulatory body responsible for developing processes, tools and support, and individually. LPNs engage in self-regulation by accepting the accountability to practice in accordance with the standards of the profession and for responsibility of attaining and maintaining competence throughout their careers. For more information on self-regulation, go to <http://clpnns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/PPS-Self-Regulation1.pdf>.

The Licensed Practical Nurse Act

In Nova Scotia, the *Licensed Practical Nurse Act* authorizes the college to regulate LPNs. The act outlines the legal capacity that the government has delegated to the college as the regulatory body. A board of directors presides over the college and they are responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organization. The strategic direction is operationalized by the executive director/ registrar, and the college staff. The college is expected to develop, implement, and enforce various regulatory standards, processes, and policies in exchange for the benefits of professional status associated with self-regulation. These standards, processes, and policies create a regulatory framework designed to protect the public by ensuring that services from LPNs are provided in a safe, competent, ethical, and compassionate manner.



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Board of Directors

The college is governed by a board of directors who is responsible for making decisions that establish the strategic direction and ensuring the college's mandate of protecting the public. The board of directors is made up of 11 individuals:

- Six actively practicing LPNs who are elected through an elections process
- Four public members are appointed by Governor-in-Council
- One representative from the College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia (CRNNS)

Active practicing LPNs make up the majority of the board with an LPN serving as board chair. It is important to recognize that decisions that are important for the profession of practical nursing are being made by licensed practical nurses. This is a hallmark of being a self-regulated professional. For more information about the college board of directors, go to <http://clpnns.ca/board-directors/>.

The College's Objectives

Self-regulation is a privilege. Like all privileges, it can be taken away if the college fails to ensure its mandate of public safety. In order to be in compliance with requirements of the act, and maintain the privilege of self-regulation, all college activities must fall within four objects (objectives):

- 1 To serve and protect the public interest
- 2 To preserve the integrity of the practical nursing profession
- 3 To maintain public confidence in the ability of the practical nursing profession to regulate itself
- 4 To regulate the practice of licensed practical nurses through the development of various processes

Role of the College as the Regulatory Body

The college has four primary functions within the objects that make up its self-regulatory core work:

- 1 Setting standards for who may enter the profession and for approval of practical nurse education programs
- 2 Setting standards for the practice and conduct of those working in the profession (Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics, Entry-Level Competencies, and Continuing Competence Program)
- 3 Developing registration, licensing, and professional conduct policies and processes
- 4 Providing practice direction and guidance to licensed practical nurses through the creation of policies and interpretive documents that support their practice

Conclusion

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 up-holding 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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