

Am I Practising Nursing?

A guide for LPNs

Nursing practice can take place in a variety of roles and settings. To practice as a licensed practical nurse in Nova Scotia, you must be registered with the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia (the College). To maintain your license, you must accumulate 1,000 practice hours as a licensed practical nurse over a five year period. Only hours accumulated in a role that requires a nursing knowledge base and LPN licensure can be counted towards your annual hourly requirement.

Sometimes there is a lack of clarity about an individual nurses' role with regard to if it constitutes nursing or not. This guide outlines the factors to consider in determining if you are practising nursing.

Reflect on your current role

Reflect on the following items.
Check all that apply to your current role.

ASSESSMENT

- Client (holistic assessment – physical, social, emotional, psychological, spiritual; and includes individuals, groups/families, communities, or populations);
- Delivery, or the facilitation of the delivery, of safe and competent nursing care;
- Contexts of nursing practice (at the unit, institution, system, or regulatory level); or
- Impact of nursing policy.

PLANNING

- Collects health data;
- Reviews the findings of a health assessment and compares them to actual or expected findings;
- Collaborates in the determination of appropriate nursing/interprofessional plan of care, health related service, treatment, care provider, or equipment; or
- Reviews nursing issues to support client care/nursing practice.



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INTERVENTION

- Provides treatment (including complementary therapies) or performs health-related intervention(s);
- Collaborates in the development of health education, based on nursing knowledge, skill, and judgment;
- Teaches/educates clients (this may be health teaching and may be teaching specific to a health related/medical supply product, or health promotion which includes counseling);
- Communicates with clients, families, groups, communities, or populations about interventions or plan of care;
- Collaborates with other care providers;
- Directly or indirectly influences the practice of care providers and/or nursing policy, which may include surveillance of quality assurance plan or program, or workload management program;
- Manages or co-manages nursing resources (e.g. staff, facilities, equipment); or
- Collaborates in the development of learning resources for nurses or other care providers.

EVALUATION

- Reviews client health records to identify, determine, or report health outcomes;
- Anticipates and records outcomes and makes nursing practice decisions based on the findings of the evaluation;
- Interacts with others who expect that you have nursing knowledge; or
- Actions have a direct or indirect effect on the recipient of a health care service in Nova Scotia.

Please note

If you are licensed with the College, you are required to participate in the College's Continuing Competence Program. You are also advised to keep up to date with developments in the nursing profession (for example, by reading nursing journals, attending workshops, reviewing nursing websites).

You should be aware that these activities, in absence of active practicing hours, will not sufficiently satisfy the requirements to maintain your annual license.

AM I PRACTICING NURSING?

Have you checked at least one box in each of the above sections?

- Yes You are a practicing nurse.
- No You are non-practicing.
Call a College Practice Consultant at 1-800-718-8517 (option 5) to discuss your options.

References

College of Nurses of Ontario, 2011. Fact Sheet: Am I Practicing Nursing? Toronto: ON, Author.



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