

Nursing Jurisprudence Frequently Asked Questions

What does jurisprudence mean?

Jurisprudence is the scientific study of the application of the principles of law or justice.

What is nursing jurisprudence?

Nursing Jurisprudence is the application and interpretation of the principles of law or legal rules as they relate to the:

- practice of nursing;
- obligations nurses have to their clients, and;
- relationships nurses have with other nurses and health care professionals.

Nursing jurisprudence is framed by federal and provincial legislation. This means LPNs in Nova Scotia must interpret their national Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics through existing provincial and federal legislation.

Why is jurisprudence education important to LPNs?

Jurisprudence is important for three reasons. First of all is jurisprudence **contributes to the delivery of safe care**. Increasing the awareness and understanding of how the law impacts nursing practice in Nova Scotia helps LPNs practice within the boundaries of legislation. This can ultimately lead to greater patient safety. Licensed practical nurses who are prepared with knowledge of their regulatory environments and processes relevant to health care understand concepts of safe nursing practice.

Secondly, **similarities and differences in provincial scope of practice** can cause confusion. In every province/territory, health is governed primarily by provincial legislation. Although there are similarities in provincial/territorial legislation governing the practice of LPNs, there are also a number of differences including legislated scope of practice, the regulation of practice, and other provincial legislation affecting nursing practice. Therefore LPNs must be knowledgeable about regulatory policy, relevant federal and provincial legislation and integrate it appropriately into their practice in Nova Scotia.

Finally, **inter-jurisdictional mobility for LPNs**. Jurisprudence is timely given the increase in inter-jurisdictional mobility of LPNs and migration of Internationally Educated Nurses (IENs) to Canada and Nova Scotia. The more LPNs coming to Nova Scotia and Canada, the more important jurisprudence becomes.

How will LPNs get nursing jurisprudence education?

The College has developed an on-line jurisprudence online learning module and examination, as well as a reference guide. Starting in May of 2016, applicants who are seeking licensure in Nova Scotia are required to complete the learning module and successfully pass a jurisprudence examination (JE).

Why a jurisprudence examination?

The JE ensures Licensed Practical Nurses new or returning to Nova Scotia have the necessary knowledge to practice nursing safely within the legislative framework of the Nova Scotia practice context. An examination helps the College to determine if a candidate has achieved the necessary learning outcomes to support the delivery of safe, competent, ethical and compassionate nursing care. Ultimately, JE supports the College to meet its objective of public protection.

Who must complete the module and write the JE?

At this time, only those who are seeking initial licensure or to re-establish licensure in Nova Scotia, must successfully complete the JE. This includes:

- **New Graduates** : PN students who have successfully completed all the requirements of the PN program and have been approved for graduation and are making application for write the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE) to establish initial licensure;
- **Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) LPNs**: LPNs who are licensed in another Canadian jurisdiction and are making application for initial licensure in Nova Scotia. This includes LPNs who were once licensed in Nova Scotia, but have not been licensed in Nova Scotia in the past 5 years;
- **Internationally Educated Nurses (IENs)**: Candidates who are making application for initial licensure in Canada, and;
- **Former Members of the College**: Candidates who are required to complete an approved LPN Re-entry Program to re-establish licensure.

What information is covered in the module and JE?

The module is divided into three competency categories. Questions on the examination are based on three areas: LPN Scope of Practice, Self-Regulation and Legislation (provincial and federal).

What is the design of the learning module and JE?

Both the learning module and exam is offered as an online platform. The learning module has visual content and spoken word. The on-line examination is open book and links to the source material is embedded into the content for reference and access. Access to a computer and the internet are required. Public computers are available at the College office in Halifax for those applicants without computer or internet access.

How do I access the online learning module and exam?

The online learning module is accessed with a unique Login ID. You are issued a login ID (by email) once your [Application for Initial Application and Licensure in Nova Scotia](#) is processed.

Is there a reference guide?

Yes. The College has developed a [reference guide](#). The guide is available to download from the College website and contains links to all the relevant source documents. Applicants are encouraged to read the reference guide before completing the learning module.

How much does this cost?

Currently the cost for your first login ID is embedded in the fee for initial licensure. The login ID for the module and examination is valid for 60 days from issue. If your ID expires before you complete JE, you be required to pay an additional \$25.00 for a new ID. You may have to start the JE from the beginning with the new ID.

How long will it take to complete the learning module and write the JE?

Everyone is different, so it is difficult to comment on how long it may take. In the pilot test, the average time was around 80 minutes. The learning module is set up to 'save and return'. This means you can work on the module in sections, returning to the place where you left off. Applicants are be granted an ample amount of time (60 days) and access to the module and exam.

What is the pass mark of the JE and can I re-write the test if I fail?

The learning module is designed to be accessed as many times as necessary to achieve 100% on the JE.

Is an open book test a valid measure of my knowledge?

Yes. The point of the learning module and the College reference guide is to provide you with the information to support safe, competent, ethical and compassionate nursing care. The JE is a measure indicating you possess the necessary knowledge to meet the minimum expected standard.

Passing the JE indicates you have met the standard. However, as a professional nurse, you are accountable to *continue to meet the standard*, to ensure you provide safe, competent, ethical and compassionate nursing care.

Is there support available if I am struggling with the JE?

Yes. A Professional Practice Consultant is available to offer guidance and support if necessary.

I understand federal legislation prohibits re-testing professionals who move from one province to another. Is the College authorized to require a JE?

The *Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) Act* states professionals who have successfully completed a licensing examination (or equivalent) in one province cannot be required to complete a similar licensing test in another province. The jurisprudence examination is not a licensing test; however passing JE is a *requirement* for registration in Nova Scotia.

According to the AIT, the College has the authority to require applicants to successfully complete a jurisprudence examination as a requirement of licensure. The authority to require jurisprudence is also noted in the *LPN Regulations (2006)* and the College by-laws.

I have an active practicing LPN license in Nova Scotia. Do I have to write JE?

At this time, only new applicants seeking licensure or re-licensure in Nova Scotia are required to complete the module and JE. Current members may wish to complete the learning module and JE as part of their learning plan; however it is not a requirement. The cost to complete the learning module and exam is \$50.00. When you complete the [online registration form](#) and pay your fees, you are issued a login ID. The login ID for the module and examination is valid for 60 days from issue. If your ID expires before you complete JE, you be required to pay an additional \$25.00 for a new ID. You may have to start the JE from the beginning with the new ID.

I am about to go on family leave. I will not be renewing my license because I will not be working while on leave. Will I have to write JE in order to re-instate my license when my family leave is over?

No. As long as you have maintained enough hours to re-instate your license - 1000 hours over 5 years- you are not required to write JE. If you do not maintain 1000 hours of practice over 5 years, you will be required to complete JE as part of the LPN Re-Entry program.

I am planning to move to another province for a few years. Will I have to write JE when I return?

Maybe. You are required to write JE if it has been greater than 5 years since you last held a license to practice practical nursing in Nova Scotia.

Do LPNs or other professions across Canada have a jurisprudence requirement?

Yes. Several provinces have either already implemented a LPN jurisprudence module and/or exam or are working towards implementation (i.e., British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario). A number of Canadian health professions have existing jurisprudence exams as a requirement for licensure, including the College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia (CRNNS).

Who developed the learning module and jurisprudence examination here in Nova Scotia?

The Jurisprudence Examination Work Group developed the module and created the examination questions. The working group consisted of practicing LPNs from around the province, College board members, public representatives and College staff.

60 volunteers, including PN Students and practicing LPNs, pilot-tested the module and JE in December of 2015. They evaluated the content and exam and provided valuable feedback. The learning module and exam were revised based on their feedback.

Does the jurisprudence module replace the continuing competence program (CCP)?

No. JE is a mandatory licensing requirement for all new members and does not replace the continuing competence program (CCP). It may however, be used to satisfy some of the requirements for CCP.