

Policy Number	PPD-004			
Section	Practice			
Subsection	Scope of Practice of the Graduate Practical Nurse			
APPLICABLE LEGISLATION	LPN Act (2006) LPN Regulations (2009)			
Board Consent	Effective Date	Reviewed Date	Revised Date	# of Pages
June 2000	June 2000	August 2013	2016¹	1

1. POLICY STATEMENT

A Graduate Practical Nurse (GPN) is a person who has yet to take the registration examination and:

1. Has secured a graduate practicing license;
2. Has graduated from a practical-nursing education program or equivalent program in accordance with section 10 and 11 of the LPN Regulations in the 6 months immediately before their application for entry in the graduate practicing roster, and;
3. Has paid the applicable examination fee prescribed by the Board and applied to take the registration examination or is waiting for results of the examination².

2. SCOPE OF PRACTICE STATEMENT

A Graduate Practical Nurse:

1. Works collaboratively or under the guidance or direction of a Licensed Practical Nurse, Registered Nurse, Medical Practitioner or any health care provider authorized to provide such consultation, guidance or direction, and within their individual scope of practice, competence and education;
2. May administer all prescribed medication within the Scope of Practice and organization policy as long as competent (possess the necessary knowledge, skill and judgment), and;
3. May **not** assume the role of nurse in charge³ or be the only regulated care provider in the usually defined practice area.

3. REQUIRED FOR EMPLOYMENT

A Nova Scotia license⁴ to practice practical nursing is required for all employment settings. Employers and nurses share the accountability to ensure all employees hold a current license to practice **before** the commencement of employment.⁵

¹ Previous revisions: 2003, 2005, 2007 & 2011

² The GPN license is withdrawn when a candidate fails the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination.

³ Unless in collaboration and co-assigned with an appropriate mentor.

⁴ GPN or LPN

⁵ Includes employer orientation EVEN if client care is not expected.