



Position Statement

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia (CLPNNS)

is the regulatory body for the Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) of Nova Scotia and whose mandate is to protect the public while ensuring the profession of safe, competent and ethical nursing care.

The CLPNNS is responsible for setting, monitoring and enforcing the Code of Ethics and Standards of Nursing Practice for all LPNs in Nova Scotia.

The College supports and encourages LPNs to work to their full scope of practice within the clinical parameters defined by employers through policies and procedures.



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Professional Accountability

**For Licensed Practical Nurses
of Nova Scotia**

INTRODUCTION

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia maintains that Licensed Practical Nurses are accountable and liable for their own practice/actions.

KEY ASSUMPTIONS:

- Accountability is a moral concept involving acceptance of consequences for decisions and/or actions.
- Accountability is liability for task performance and cannot be delegated (Huber 2000).
- Standards for professional accountability are set, monitored and enforced by the CLPNNS through the Code of Ethics and Standards of Nursing Practice (CLPNNS 2005).

In accordance with Regulations with respect to Licensed Practical Nurses, the member is accountable for:

- Knowing, understanding and adhering to the Code of Ethics and Standards of Nursing Practice set forth by the CLPNNS (2005).
- Knowing, understanding and adhering to legislative requirements documented in the Licensed Practical Nurses Act, Regulations and College By-laws.
- Knowing, understanding and adhering to the policies and/or procedures set forth by the employer.
- Knowing and understanding that the LPN is accountable for all client care provided and for the decisions about assigning care to other care providers.

The member will demonstrate accountability by:

- Utilizing a conscious and deliberate application of theory to practice via the use of critical thinking and problem solving skills consistent with the LPN's educational preparation.
- Making autonomous decisions regarding personal competency to provide care given the context and client circumstances, including decisions not to provide care when the level of education and personal competency have not been met.
- Actively identifying and asking questions of self, other members of the multidisciplinary health care team and clients.
- Ensuring that the person with whom the LPN consults or seeks advice is competent to provide that advice in a given situation (LPN Act, 2006).
- Functioning as a team member in the provision of nursing care as defined by the "practice of practical nursing," LPN Act (2006) Section 2.
- Performing within the limits of educational preparation and level of competency needed to practice competently.
- Maintaining the highest level of professional competence through periodic self assessment and seeking out educational opportunities to meet these learning needs.
- Conducting herself/himself in a manner that promotes integrity of the profession.

NOTES TO ACCOUNTABILITY:

- The member is not accountable for decisions and actions when the member was not involved in determining these decisions and/or actions.
- The member is accountable for reporting to the appropriate person, upon awareness, any actions deemed harmful or jeopardizing the safety of a client.
- The member whose practice/actions contravene the values and standards set forth by the College in the Code of Ethics and Standards of Nursing Practice may be subject to the Professional Conduct Process of the Licensed Practical Nurses Act.

REFERENCE

College of Nurses of Ontario, 2005.



MISSION

In the interests of the public, the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia regulates the practice of Licensed Practical Nurses in the province.

VISION

A dynamically regulated profession committed to excellence.