



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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The Therapeutic Nurse-Client Relationship

**For Licensed Practical Nurses
of Nova Scotia**

INTRODUCTION

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia maintains that the therapeutic nurse-client relationship is a professional relationship in which the LPN provides empathy and care in meeting the therapeutic needs of the client.

ASSUMPTIONS OF THE THERAPEUTIC NURSE-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP:

- In the provision of nursing services, the relationship between the client and the LPN will act to serve the therapeutic needs of the client, not the personal needs of the LPN.
- Within the therapeutic nurse-client relationship there exists an unequal power, the balance being in favor of the nurse. The LPN will use this power appropriately in a caring manner which enables the client's needs to be met, thus ensuring no advantage will be taken of the client's vulnerable position.
- The LPN respects the individual characteristics of the client such as cultural and societal identity, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, physical appearance and spiritual beliefs, and recognizes the impact that these have on the health and well-being of the client and on the nurse-client relationship.
- The therapeutic nurse-client relationship can be viewed on a continuum bound by under-involvement with the client to over-involvement with the client.
- There are a number of WARNING SIGNS that may indicate professional boundaries in the therapeutic nurse-client relationship are being compromised, including, but not limited to:
 - Spending additional time with a specific client once their therapeutic needs have been met.
 - Manipulating client assignment in order to care for a specific client.
 - Disclosing personal problems and/or information to a specific client.
 - Withholding information regarding a specific client from other members of the health care team.
 - Ignoring agency policies and procedures when working with a specific client.
 - Giving out home telephone number and/or address to a specific client (CNO, 2000).

Through self-reflection and continuously evolving knowledge and skill, the LPN will utilize a self-directed approach to exercising discretionary judgment in maintaining professional boundaries. The LPN is legally responsible for her/his actions and accountable for ensuring her/his practice is consistent with the Code of Ethics and Standards of Nursing Practice for Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia. A failure by the LPN to establish and/or maintain professional boundaries may be viewed as contrary to the Code of Ethics and Standards of Nursing Practice and may be subject to the Professional Conduct Process. The Licensed Practical Nurse's intent to "do no harm" is not a consideration in determining whether the behaviour and/or action is abusive and/or unprofessional in nature.

The LPN is required to self report any nursing practice and/or unacceptable behaviours that may challenge professional boundaries. This Standard of Nursing Practice applies to the client, her/his family, significant other, acquaintance and/or other care providers.

The therapeutic nurse-client relationship is complex and maintaining professional boundaries may be challenging. By adhering to the boundaries of the therapeutic nurse-client relationship, the LPN recognizes the impact of her/his values on the nurse-client relationship. Recognizing and accepting the professional boundaries preserve the integrity of the practical nursing profession.

REFERENCES

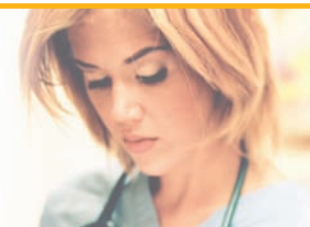
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MISSION

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.