

# Accountability Interpretative Document

2016



COLLEGE OF  
LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES  
OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR  
LPNS - A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO QUALITY CARE



This Interpretative Document was approved by the CLPNNL Board on June 17, 2016.

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador (CLPNNL) in accordance with the Licensed Practical Nurses Act (2005) has the legislated responsibility for regulating the practice of Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The mandate of the CLPNNL is to promote safety and protect the public through the provision of safe, competent, compassionate and ethical nursing care. The CLPNNL is responsible for setting, monitoring and enforcing the Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics for all LPNs in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The CLPNNL develops Interpretive Documents to provide direction, promote clarity and give further explanation for LPNs in relation to the expectations identified within the Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics (2013). This Interpretive Document provides direction for LPNs in relation to accountability.

**Accountability** is an essential component of the nursing profession as well as patient safety. It is the ability to accept responsibility or account for one's actions/inactions; it is a moral and legal concept involving acceptance of consequences for decisions and/or actions. It is a continuous obligation inherent in nursing practice and *cannot* be delegated.

**Responsibility** is a component of accountability and it involves taking acceptance for the actions that you do and the actions you do not do. It refers to the characteristics of reliability and dependability.

The CLPNNL's Standards of Practice (2013), Standard 1 states that *LPNs are accountable for their practice and responsible for ensuring that their practice and conduct meet both the standards of the profession and legislative requirements.*

The Code of Ethics *articulates the ethical values and responsibilities that LPNs uphold and promote, and to which they are held accountable.*

The Code of Ethics describe the LPN's accountability and responsibility to:

1. *The Public* – LPNs commit to provide safe, effective, compassionate, and ethical care to members of the public; LPNs show an understanding that community, society and the environment are important factors in the health of individual clients.
2. *The Profession* – LPNs commit to their profession and foster the respect and trust of their clients, health care colleagues and the public.
3. *The Employer* – LPNs practice within their role description, policies and procedures as outlined by their employer.
4. *The CLPNNL* – LPNs comply with the Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics as well as Legislative and Regulatory requirements.
5. *Colleagues* – LPNs develop and maintain positive, collaborative relationships with nursing colleagues and other health professionals.
6. *Oneself* – LPNs recognize and practice within their personal and professional competence and value systems.



The Standards of Practice describe the LPN's accountability and responsibility to:

- provide safe, competent, compassionate and ethical nursing care for clients;
- ensure that their nursing knowledge is current and that they possess the necessary knowledge, skill, ability, and clinical judgement to fulfill their role;
- know their practice limitations and identify when an assignment is beyond their individual scope of practice or competency level, and consult as necessary;
- engage in self-assessment and seek continuous learning opportunities;
- conduct themselves in a manner that promotes the integrity of the profession;
- maintain the required mental and physical wellness to meet the responsibilities of their role;
- maintain and enhance their scope of practice as required for the practice setting; and
- take appropriate action when there are signs that the practice of another care provider is not consistent with best practice or standards of care.

LPNs are accountable to provide care that is within the legal and ethical framework of the *Licensed Practical Nurses Act (2005)*, *Licensed Practical Nurses Regulations (2011)*, *CLPNNL's By-laws (2014)*, *Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics (2013)*, and employer policies.

**In essence, your practice is your responsibility.**



## References and Resources

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