



## *POSITION STATEMENT*

### **PREVENTING CLIENT ABUSE**

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Newfoundland & Labrador (CLPNNL) in accordance with the Licensed Practical Nurses' Act has the legislative responsibility for regulating the practice of Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. The mission of the CLPNNL is to promote safety and protection of the public through the provision of safe, competent and ethical nursing care. The CLPNNL is responsible for setting, monitoring and enforcing the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for all LPNs in Newfoundland and Labrador. As such, CLPNNL has developed position statements which describe the professional expectations for LPNs in specific areas of practice. These position statements will assist in clarifying professional issues for the registrant, other health care professionals, employers and the general public. 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.

The CLPNNL is committed to preventing all forms of abuse and to address any identified incidents of abuse of clients by registrants. The Licensed Practical Nurse has a role in the prevention and identification of abuse and neglect. In the role of the client advocate, Licensed Practical Nurses ensure that clients' wishes are considered and respected and that clients receive protection from abuse. It is important to note that this position statement provides guidelines only, not nursing protocols for dealing with the issue of abuse and neglect. The CLPNNL believes that:

- \* Abuse of persons is unacceptable in any form.
- \* The practical nursing profession has a professional and societal responsibility to respond to abuse so that the rights and dignity of the individuals are protected.
- \* Licensed Practical Nurses have a legal and ethical responsibility to intervene when they suspect unprofessional or incompetent conduct by their colleagues to prevent and/or report incompetent, impaired or unethical activity or behaviour. All cases of suspected abuse or neglect must be reported immediately.
- \* Fulfillment of this LPN professional responsibility protects the welfare of the client and maintains the standards of practice and code of ethics of the practical nursing profession.
- \* Education is an essential part of abuse prevention.

#### **REFERENCES**

- LPN Scope of Practice, College of LPNs, Newfoundland and Labrador (August 2004)*
- LPN Position Statement on Abuse (1994)*
- College of Nurses of Ontario Fact Sheet Preventing Client Abuse (2002)*
- Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador, Philosophical Statement on Abuse and Neglect (1990)*