



POSITION STATEMENT

DECLARATION OF SCOPE OF PRACTICE

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Newfoundland and 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 LPNs, 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.

Licensed Practical Nurses' Scope of Practice provides a general description of the services its practitioners are qualified to provide and forms a basis for the development of standards for practice and competencies for entry-level practitioners. The Scope of Practice regulates the practice of the profession, guides in curriculum development for educational institutions, assists employers in the preparation of position descriptions and informs the public about the services Licensed Practical Nurses are qualified to perform.

The parameters of the scope of practice are defined by entry-level preparation and post graduate education and/or advanced education. Within this scope of practice, LPNs are accountable to ensure their nursing knowledge is current and increase their expertise and competence level in a variety of ways including practice experience, continuing education, in-service education and post basic certificates.

LPNs are obligated to identify when direction or assistance is required, when their educational preparation or competence for performance of a procedure is: inadequate or when an assignment is beyond their clinical experience and ability. LPNs are responsible and accountable to abide by the legislation governing LPNs, Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics and to follow the policies and procedures of the employing agency.

REFERENCES

College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador – Scope of Practice, Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics (August 2004)

College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Manitoba – Regulatory Bulletin – Scope of Practice and Accountability (July 2005)