

CLPNL Quality Framework

2022

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



CLPNNL would like to thank the College of Registered Nurses of NL (CRNNL) for generously sharing their Quality Assurance Program document (2019) which served to inform the development of CLPNNL's Quality Framework.

CLPNNL QUALITY FRAMEWORK DESCRIPTION

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador (CLPNNL) believes that quality assurance and quality improvement are integral to the public receiving safe, competent, compassionate, and ethical nursing care. CLPNNL believes that proactive regulation which focuses on promoting good practice and preventing poor practice is essential to effective regulation. By directing our efforts upstream, the College aims to proactively prevent and mitigate the risk of harm to the public of NL. CLPNNL has developed a Quality Framework that focuses on seven key elements which collectively support LPNs in practicing safely, competently, compassionately, and ethically. These elements include the Standards of Practice and the Code of Ethics; the Quality Assurance Program; the Continuing Competency Program; Practice Services; Licensure; the Practical Nurse (PN) Program Approval; and Stakeholder Collaboration. The mandate of the CLPNNL to promote safety and protect the public through the provision of safe, competent, compassionate, and ethical nursing care, is inherent in the Quality Framework.



COMPONENTS OF THE QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK:

Standards of Practice and the Code of Ethics

CLPNNL has the legislative responsibility for setting, monitoring, and enforcing the Standards of Practice for LPNs within the province of NL. The Standards of Practice set the minimum expectations for LPN practice and outline what the profession, the public and employers expect of an LPN. The Standards outline, guide and direct LPN practice and assist LPNs to meet legal and professional responsibilities. They are the benchmark by which LPNs are measured. The Code of Ethics for LPNs outlines the ethical values and responsibilities that the LPN is accountable to uphold. In conjunction with the Code, the Standards of Practice describe the elements of quality LPN practice.

Quality Assurance Program

Section 29.1 of the *Licensed Practical Nurses Act* (2005) includes the requirement for the CLPNNL to establish a Quality Assurance Committee that will operate a quality assurance program for LPNs. This quality assurance program provides a proactive step in the regulation of LPNs to support the provision of safe quality care. This regulatory mechanism enables the College to proactively address a concern regarding LPN practice rather than waiting until the concern becomes more serious and requires referral to the professional conduct review (PCR) process. Additional information on the QA program can be found in the regulatory document, CLPNNL's Quality Assurance Program.

Continuing Competency Program

CLPNNL implemented a continuing competency program (CCP) in 2017 for all practicing LPNs. The CCP is a quality assurance element that supports LPNs with continuing competence by continually enhancing their nursing practice. The CCP promotes safe, ethical, and competent life-long nursing practice by requiring LPNs to reflect on their practice, identify opportunities to broaden their knowledge base, increase their skill capacity, and enhance their individual scope of practice. Additional information on the CCP program can be found on the website: <https://www.clpnnl.ca/licensure#block-licensureccpheader>.



Practice Services

CLPNNL believes that engagement is a key component of safe quality LPN practice. CLPNNL practice consultants engage with LPNs to promote safe LPN practice through various consultative services. These services include providing consultation and education to LPNs about expectations that are required when providing safe competent care. Practice Consultants also develop practice support tools that assist LPNs to understand and apply the standards and guidelines in their practice. Additionally, CLPNNL communicates regulatory information related to licensure, scope of practice and Standards through Practice Magazine, webinars, email, social media and the CLPNNL website. Information on practice services can be found on the website <https://www.clpnnl.ca/>.

CLPNNL believes that engaged LPNs are competent LPNs who provide safe and high-quality care. The College also offers various opportunities for LPN to become involved with the College. LPNs may engage with the College by becoming a member of a regulatory committee or an LPN Liaison, or through participation in regulatory event offerings such as the Leadership Workshop. Additional information on regulatory engagement opportunities can be found on the website, <http://www.clpnnl.ca>.

Licensure

The *Licensed Practical Nurses Act (2005)*, *Licensed Practical Nurses Regulations (2011)* and CLPNNL Bylaws (2022) outline specific criteria for CLPNNL to follow for initial licensure, annual renewal, reinstatement, and re-entry into the profession. Licensure confirms that the title LPN is reserved for those who are qualified through an approved education program and are competent to practice. It assures the public that LPNs have the necessary knowledge and skills required to offer safe and quality care.

PN Program Approval

In fulfilling its role of public protection and upholding its legislative requirement, the CLPNNL is responsible for the approval of the practical nursing program offered throughout NL. The College sets the educational standards for the practical nursing program. The approval process ensures that practical nurse programs are preparing graduates for safe professional practice as outlined in the Entry-to-Practice Competencies. Program Approval processes provide assurance to the public that new LPNs have the necessary knowledge, skills, and



judgement required to provide holistic quality nursing care to a diverse clientele in a variety of settings across the lifespan.

Stakeholder Collaboration

CLPNNL shares a wide array of regulatory information on nursing regulation, nursing licensure, and safe nursing practice with all stakeholders utilizing a multipronged approach. CLPNNL also proactively engages with our stakeholders to support safe LPN practice within NL and to prevent harm before it occurs. The College partners with government, employers, educators, other regulators, LPNS, and the public to identify and address patient safety issues within health care in the interest of public protection.





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