

A: Nursing Knowledge

Major Competency Area: **A**
Nursing Knowledge

Priority: **One**

Competency: **A-1**
Anatomy and Physiology

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

- A-1-1 Identify the normal structures and functions of the body.**
- A-1-2 Describe the anatomical organization of the body.**
- A-1-3 Describe the cellular chemistry and organization of the body.**
- A-1-4 Describe basic cellular functions – protein synthesis, cell division, and movement of substances across the cell membrane.**
- A-1-5 Explain how cells are organized into tissue, organs, and systems of the body.**
- A-1-6 Identify the structure and explain the function of body systems:**
- cardiovascular system
 - circulatory system
 - digestive system
 - endocrine system
 - genitourinary system
 - immune system
 - integumentary system
 - lymphatic system
 - musculoskeletal system
 - nervous system and special senses
 - reproductive system
 - respiratory system.
- A-1-7 Identify the components of blood and blood products.**
- A-1-8 Describe the major body processes of:**
- metabolism
 - reproduction
 - homeostasis.

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Competency: **A-2**
Microbiology

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

- A-2-1 Explain characteristics of micro-organisms and their role in the transmission of disease.**
- A-2-2 Describe and differentiate pathogens and non-pathogens.**
- A-2-3 Describe and differentiate bacteria, viruses, and fungi.**
- A-2-4 Describe the normal micro-organisms within the human body.**
- A-2-5 Describe conditions for growth and transferability of micro-organisms.**
- A-2-6 Explain the concept of asepsis.**
- A-2-7 Explain the principles of disease prevention and health promotion.**

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Competency: **A-3**
Pathophysiology

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

- A-3-1 Define pathophysiology as the science of disease processes within the human body.**
- A-3-2 Identify and describe pathophysiological processes:**
- etiology (cause of disease)
 - pathophysiology (disease process)
 - manifestations (signs and symptoms)
 - complications
 - chronic versus acute conditions / disorders.
- A-3-3 Describe common health problems for all body systems.**
- A-3-4 Identify the etiology, pathophysiology, and common complications of common health problems.**
- A-3-5 Describe common body responses to disease:**
- cellular / tissue / organ / system level
 - immunity
 - inflammation
 - stress
 - carcinogenesis
 - genetic
 - psychological.
- A-3-6 Describe the processes of inflammation, infection, and healing.**

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

- A-3-7** **Explain the common types of trauma:**
- fractures
 - haemorrhage
 - shock
 - burns
 - neurological
 - respiratory
 - psychological
 - surgical
 - multisystem failure.
- A-3-8** **Describe the etiology and medical treatment of common mental disorders.**
(See Competency Band M).
- A-3-9** **Describe the common referral agencies and resources for mental health.**
- A-3-10** **Explain common medical management in relation to pharmacology, surgery, anaesthesia, and treatments.**
- A-3-11** **Apply the nursing process to the care of clients with common health problems.**

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Competency: **A-4**
Medical Terminology

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

- A-4-1 Identify the meanings of common prefixes, suffixes, and root words used in reporting and documenting.**
- A-4-2 Identify and use common abbreviations in documentation.**
- A-4-3 Identify and use common medical symbols.**
- A-4-4 Use appropriate medical terminology in reporting and documentation.**
- A-4-5 Know common agency policies and procedures regarding documentation and use of medical terminology.**

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Competency: **A-5**
Growth and Development

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

- A-5-1 Explain the common theories of human growth and development throughout the life cycles.**
- A-5-2 Describe the significant physical, psychological, social, cognitive, moral, spiritual, and cultural developments throughout the life cycle.**
- A-5-3 Describe the principles of growth and development.**
- A-5-4 Describe how the factors of environment, genetics, culture, lifestyle, religion, and maturation influence growth and development.**
- A-5-5 Identify the developmental tasks for each stage of growth and development.**
- A-5-6 Describe the normal process of learning.**
- A-5-7 Describe and apply the principles of teaching.**
- A-5-8 Describe and apply normal stages of death and dying, and grief and grieving process.**
- A-5-9 Relate normal growth and development processes to the application of nursing in the care of clients of all age groups.**

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Competency: **A-6**
Nutrition

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A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

- A-6-1 Describe the importance of nutrition to health and recovery.**
- A-6-2 Identify the functions, major sources, and daily requirements for common nutrients:**
- carbohydrate
 - fibre
 - fat
 - minerals
 - protein
 - vitamins.
- A-6-3 Identify the Canada's Food Guide requirements for each age group throughout the life cycle.**
- A-6-4 Identify factors that affect normal nutrition, e.g., cultural, socio-economic and geographical.**
- A-6-5 Identify the indicators of adequate and inadequate nutrition.**
- A-6-6 Describe common methods to assess nutritional status:**
- general appearance
 - height and weight
 - diet history
 - food allergies
 - body mass index
 - lab values
 - swallowing
 - perception of body image.
- A-6-7 Describe the purpose and elements of common therapeutic diets.**
- A-6-8 Identify the role of the dietician as a member of the health team.**

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Competency: **A-7**
Pharmacology

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

- A-7-1 Define pharmacology.**
- A-7-2 List four primary sources of drugs.**
- A-7-3 Describe the processes by which drugs are used in the body.**
- A-7-4 Distinguish between local and systemic sites of action.**
- A-7-5 Recognize normal lab values.**
- A-7-6 Describe the common effects of drugs:**
 - therapeutic effects
 - side effects
 - adverse reaction
 - allergic reaction
 - synergistic effects
 - drug interactions.
- A-7-7 Describe the signs, symptoms, and treatment of anaphylaxis.**
- A-7-8 Identify common legislation and drug standards.**
- A-7-9 Distinguish the difference between generic and trade name of drugs.**
- A-7-10 Identify the uses, actions, usual dosage range, major side effects, nursing implications, and examples of common drug classifications.**
- A-7-11 Define nursing role in “controlled substances.”**

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

- A-7-12 Identify common systems of measurements in drug therapy.**
- A-7-13 Identify common formulas and calculate medication dosages for adults and children.**
- A-7-14 Describe the therapeutic purpose of drugs.**
- A-7-15 Describe the factors influencing medication action.**
- A-7-16 Describe and give examples of common medication actions.**
- A-7-17 Differentiate between drug abuse and drug misuse.**
- A-7-18 Differentiate between physiological and psychological dependence.**
- A-7-19 Identify roles and responsibilities of physician / nurse practitioner in prescribing and pharmacists in the dispensing of drugs.**
- A-7-20 Identify the common routes of medication administration.**
- A-7-21 Identify the principles underlying safe administration of medication:**
- assessment
 - “rights”
 - documentation
 - policy and procedures
 - safe disposal.
- A-7-22 Describe the purpose of common pharmacological references and resources.**

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Competency: **A-8**
Nursing Science

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

- A-8-1 Describe the steps of the nursing process – assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation.**
- A-8-2 Integrate knowledge and skills from sciences and humanities into the application of the nursing process.**
- A-8-3 Describe the process of identifying a nursing diagnosis.**
- A-8-4 Understand the evolution of nursing including history, role, function, and professionalism.**
- A-8-5 Describe the common characteristics of the Canadian health care system.**
- A-8-6 Identify the common methods of delivering and organizing nursing care.**
- A-8-7 Describe the basic elements of nursing theories and models:**
 - definition of nursing
 - health
 - human needs
 - illness
 - nursing process
 - wellness.
- A-8-8 Identify and describe trends and issues within the nursing professions.**
- A-8-9 Describe the legal, ethical, and moral aspects of nursing.**

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

- A-8-10 Understand the role of the LPN within the health care system:**
- relationship to other health professionals
 - responsibility and accountability
 - scope of practice.
- A-8-11 Explain the concepts of professional accountability, responsibility for competence, and life long learning.**
- A-8-12 Provide the rationale and principles underlying nursing actions.**
- A-8-13 Describe the role of the LPN in health promotion and disease prevention.**
- A-8-14 Describe common complementary therapies.**

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Competency: **A-9**
Communication

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

- A-9-1 Describe the concepts within communication.**
- A-9-2 Describe the common goals of communication.**
- A-9-3 Explain the elements of the communication process.**
- A-9-4 Recognize the components of non-verbal communication when interacting with clients, families, and co-workers.**
- A-9-5 Describe the components of verbal and written communication.**
- A-9-6 Describe the common factors that influence the communication process.**
- A-9-7 Describe the importance of self-awareness to effective communication.**
- A-9-8 Describe the importance of feedback to effective communication.**
- A-9-9 Describe the role of effective communication in establishing, maintaining, and closing interpersonal relationships.**
- A-9-10 Describe how the communication process is used within the nursing process and provision of nursing care.**
- A-9-11 Describe the importance of effective communication to management of conflict.**
- A-9-12 Describe the importance of effective communication to the leadership role.**
- A-9-13 Describe the purpose and use of common communication devices.**