

# Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Licensed Practical Nurses

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## Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for LPNs

In recent months Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) has taken a front burner in relation to health practices. In 2008, Alberta Health and Wellness implemented a new Provincial Infection Prevention and Control Strategy with four IPC Standards documents:

1. **Accountability and Reporting**  
Promotes clarity in the roles and responsibilities for key positions providing appropriate checks and balances to support patient safety.
2. **Medical Device Cleaning Standards**  
Sets minimum requirements for cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization of reusable medical devices for all settings.
3. **Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) Standards**  
Minimizes risk of exposure to and prevents transmission of MRSA through minimum required standards for managing clients with MRSA.
4. **Single-Use Medical Devices**  
Sets clear definition for single-use medical devices.

These four IPC Standards are available at [www.health.alberta.ca](http://www.health.alberta.ca) and provide clear guidance to professionals working in any health setting where IPC may be an issue. LPNs are encouraged to review these documents and follow these standards in their practice.

The LPN Competency Profile defines several competencies related to IPC. (i.e., A-2 Microbiology, A-3 Pathophysiology, C Safety, E-11 Medical / Surgical Asepsis). LPNs practice to these competencies, maintaining the CLPNA Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics. All health professionals are expected to report risks to patient safety in accordance with the Health Professions Act and the Public Health Act.

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## References:

- 2nd Edition Competency Profile for LPNs*. College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta and Alberta Health and Wellness (2004)  
*Alberta Infection Prevention and Control Strategy*. Alberta Health and Wellness (January 2008)