The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (CLPNA) is mandated by government to regulate the profession of Practical Nurses in a manner that serves and protects the public.

Accordingly the College develops specific practice statements relevant to the Practical Nursing profession.

The purpose of a Practice Statement is:

- To provide LPNs, employers and the public with information and clarity regarding the scope of practice for LPNs.
- To help eliminate misconceptions regarding the scope of practice for LPNs.
- To assist employers with utilizing LPNs more effectively in the health care system.

**Definition**

**Preceptor** - A preceptor is an experienced and competent staff nurse in a clinical setting who acts as an educator, role model, guide, and resource person in orienting the novice nurse to the professional expectations of the role. The preceptor facilitates the integration of the novice nurse as an accepted member of the nursing team.

Adapted from the Preceptor Training Handbook, Grant MacEwan College (2002)

**Preceptor Role**

Preceptors have three primary roles:

1. **Role Model** - To model the practice of the profession by example, to define excellence in nursing practice and assist with an understanding of practice standards, scope of practice, relevant legislation, and policies.

2. **Guide** - To orientate students to the clinical setting, assist them to assume their role in the workplace, and to understand the nursing and health care environment. Supervise students directly or indirectly according to the LPN Regulation and employer policy.

3. **Educator / Mentor** - To establish and maintain a supportive relationship of respect and trust, assess learning, and provide guidance. Assist students in implementing the nursing process while providing feedback in a constructive manner to aid in professional growth.

**Supervision of Students**

The LPN Regulation defines the supervision required by a student learning a restricted activity and is specific to students enrolled in nursing programs as well as regulated members enrolled in a specialized practice program.

LPNs who accept a preceptorship must understand and be competent in any restricted activity that they supervise.
**LPN Preceptor Role**

**Practice Statement 12**
Approved by Council: 21-Sep-05

**Preparation for the Preceptor**
There are a variety of opportunities for LPNs to become more familiar and competent in the preceptoring role. Colleges who deliver the practical nurse program have preceptor programs and information that is provided to an LPN who accepts a preceptorship. Guidance is provided and available directly from the educational institution at anytime during the preceptorship. Some employers, health regions, and educational institutions around the province may also have education programs and materials to assist preceptors.

**The Rewards and the Challenges**
LPNs, as part of their professional responsibility, are encouraged to seek opportunities to preceptor as it can be a growing and enriching experience.

The future of the LPN profession depends upon qualified and experienced Licensed Practical Nurses sharing their knowledge, skill, and practice experience.

**References**

- *Nursing Preceptor Role Description*. (October 2004). Calgary, AB: Calgary Health Region.