The purpose of the Code of Ethics is to describe the standards for ethical practice and conduct expected of the LPN based on the values of the profession. The statements describe the ethical commitments of LPNs toward their clients and families, their colleagues, their employers and themselves. The Code provides a framework against which moral and ethical performance may be measured by self and others and applies to nurses in any role.

The Licensed Practical Nurse:

- Provides safe, competent and ethical nursing care and accepts accountability for own nursing judgments and actions
- Provides care with integrity, compassion and dignity respecting the rights, values and beliefs of the individual, family and community
- Advocates for safe, competent and ethical care for all clients
- Manages confidential information in accordance with current legislation and employer policy
- Assesses own nursing practice and maintains competence through lifelong learning
- Fosters respectful collaborative relationships with clients, colleagues and other health care stakeholders
- Promotes the profession through excellence in mentorship
- Maintains standards of professional conduct which enhance public confidence
**STANDARD 1: KNOWLEDGE**

The Licensed Practical Nurse integrates knowledge of nursing science, arts and humanities acquired through basic education and continuous learning.

**Indicators:**

**The LPN:**
1. Demonstrates an understanding of the knowledge, critical thinking and clinical judgment required for the provision of safe, competent and ethical nursing care.
2. Demonstrates awareness of and practices in accordance with accepted infection prevention and control standards.
4. Accesses resources when needed to support the provision of safe, appropriate client care.
5. Uses health promotion and health teaching appropriate to the client's need.
6. Demonstrates awareness of evidence based practice and applies this understanding to provision of client care.
7. Participates in research and quality improvement activities to enhance nursing practice and health outcomes.

**STANDARD 2: ACCOUNTABILITY**

The Licensed Practical Nurse maintains standards of nursing practice and professional conduct as determined by the CLPNA and the practice setting.

**Indicators:**

**The LPN:**
1. Demonstrates accountability and responsibility for own nursing actions and professional conduct.
3. Delivers nursing care in a manner that preserves and protects client autonomy, dignity and rights.
4. Maintains appropriate boundaries between professional therapeutic relationships and non-professional personal relationships.
5. Identifies and questions situations where directions, policies or procedures maybe unclear or potentially unsafe and reports such situations to an appropriate person, agency or professional body.
6. Is accountable for monitoring and maintaining own fitness to practice.

**STANDARD 3: PATIENT SAFETY**

The Licensed Practical Nurse takes responsibility for own safe nursing practice and patient safety.

**Indicators:**

**The LPN:**
1. Acts to prevent or minimize adverse events through identification and reporting of situations that are unsafe or potentially unsafe for clients or health providers.
2. Reports unsafe practice, abusive behavior or unprofessional conduct to the appropriate authority.
3. Advocates for improved safety within nursing practice and health care delivery.

**STANDARD 4: CONTINUING COMPETENCE**

The Licensed Practical Nurse engages in self assessment of practice identifying strengths, and learning needs requiring ongoing professional development.

**Indicators:**

**The LPN:**
1. Assumes primary responsibility and accountability for maintaining competence.
2. Participates in the Continuing Competency Program of CLPNA.
3. Demonstrates commitment to lifelong learning.
4. Maintains awareness of trends, issues and changes in nursing and health care.

**STANDARD 5: COLLABORATION**

The Licensed Practical Nurse collaborates with clients, health care providers and stakeholders in the delivery of health care services.

**Indicators:**

**The LPN:**
1. Establishes and maintains an environment that promotes effective relationships in planning, implementing and coordinating the delivery of nursing care.
2. Utilizes effective interpersonal and therapeutic communication skills.
3. Uses constructive feedback and mediation strategies to resolve conflicts and facilitate collaboration.
4. Mentors students, colleagues and others, and shares own experience and knowledge to advance the profession.
5. Acknowledges and respects the role and competencies of other health providers in the delivery of health services.

**STANDARD 6: LEADERSHIP**

The Licensed Practical Nurse demonstrates effective leadership knowledge and skill in own practice, as well as in the management and supervision of others.

**Indicators:**

**The LPN:**
1. Models professional values, beliefs and attributes that promote the profession to clients, learners, peers and other health care professionals.
2. Evaluates safety, effectiveness and efficiencies when planning nursing care and/or assigning duties to unregulated providers, in accordance with established CLPNA guidelines.
3. Promotes innovation and an openness to new ideas which may enhance or support nursing practice.
4. Contributes to the development of policies and procedures for the delivery of safe competent and ethical nursing care.
5. Advocates for clients, healthy practice environments and the nursing profession.
GLOSSARY

Accountability: an obligation to accept responsibility or to account for one’s actions and to achieve desired outcomes.

Client: individual, family or group who is the recipient of nursing care.

Clinical judgment: the reasoning processes that rely on critical thinking to reflect the complex, intuitive and conscious thinking strategies used to make nursing decisions.

Collaboration: working in partnership with members of the interdisciplinary health care team to provide nursing care to the client.

Competence: the ability to integrate and apply the knowledge, skills and judgment required to practice safely and ethically in a designated role and setting.

Continuing Competency Program: a system of assessing the ongoing knowledge, skills, attitudes and judgment of a professional practitioner for purposes of planning professional development and maintaining competence.

Critical thinking: analysis used to evaluate situations, solve problems and make decisions.

Evidence-based practice: the identification, evaluation and application of current research findings to guide practice decisions.

Nursing diagnosis: a statement about the client’s actual or potential health concerns that can be managed through independent nursing interventions.

Nursing research: the disciplined quantitative and qualitative study of phenomena related to nursing used to support nursing practices which improve outcome for clients.

Professionalism: a set of internalized character strengths and values directed toward high quality service to others through competent application of expertise, knowledge and skills.

Restricted activities: means a restricted activity and a portion of a restricted activity, within the meaning of Schedule 7.1 to the Government Organization Act.

Scope of practice: the roles and responsibilities of the Licensed Practical Nurse to perform safe, competent and ethical nursing care as defined by education, legislation and the regulatory authority. Under HPA (2000) this is described as Area of Practice.

REFERENCES


College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (2005) Primary Health Care: Emerging Roles for LPNs. Edmonton, Alberta: CLPNA


Government of Alberta Health Information Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter H-5, with amendments in force as of May 16, 2003

Government of Alberta Personal Information Protection Act, S.A. 2003, Chapter P-6.5


