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.

LPNs assume responsibility for the quality and effectiveness of their own practice and are legally accountable for their own nursing practice.

- LPNs are accountable to (a) their clients to provide safe, competent, ethical care (b) their employer to work within job descriptions and policies and procedures and (c) their regulatory college to comply with Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics.
- LPNs are responsible to ensure that their nursing knowledge is current and that they possess the necessary knowledge, skills, abilities, attitudes and clinical judgment to fulfill their role.
- LPNs are responsible to identify when they require assistance, or when a competency or assignment is beyond their education and/or ability.
- LPNs are required to engage in a self-assessment process in the Continuing Competency Program to identify strengths and learning needs in areas which professional development would be beneficial.

LPNs are responsible and accountable to adhere to the LPN Regulation, Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics of the profession, and to follow the policies of the employment agency.

REFERENCES

LPNs Standards of Practice. College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (May 27, 2003)

Collaborative Nursing Practice in Alberta. Alberta Association of Registered Nurses, College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta, Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Alberta (June 2003)

Practice Advisory Statements. College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Manitoba (January 2002)


Practice Expectations – A Guide for the Utilization of RNs and RPNs. College of Nurses of Ontario (December 2002)