FOOTCARE

PRACTICE STATEMENT 11
Approved by Council: 11-Feb-05

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 provide basic and advanced foot care in a variety of settings including: hospitals, long term care centres, community agencies, clinics, and clients’ homes. LPNs providing foot care may be employed by a facility / agency or may be in self-employed practice. LPNs are responsible to assess the health status of clients and their ability to meet their own continuing foot care needs.

**Basic Foot Care**

Basic foot care is taught in the basic practical nurse program and includes knowledge and skill in the following areas:

- Anatomy and physiology of the feet and lower extremities
- Common micro-organisms of the feet
- Asepsis and infection control
- Complications of diabetes and the effect on the feet
- Complications of circulatory impairment
- Educate client and caregiver
- Refer clients as necessary
- Documentation and reporting

**Advanced Foot Care**

Advanced Foot Care is considered a restricted activity and involves the removal of tissue below the dermis. The restricted activity listed in the *Health Professions Act, LPN Regulation 2003 (5[a])* authorizing advanced foot care states:

“Only regulated members on the specialized practice register and who are specifically authorized by the Registrar may perform the restricted activity of cutting a body tissue, administering anything by invasive procedure on body tissue or performing surgical or other invasive procedures on body tissue below the dermis for the purposes of performing the following activities:
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• Removing a corn or a callus as part of the provision of foot care....”

Additional Education
For authorization in advanced foot care the LPN must complete an education program containing theory and supervised lab practice, beyond that in the basic practical nurse program. This education must contain competencies in the following areas:

• Review of basic foot care competencies.
• Perform invasive foot care procedures:
  - removal of tissue below the dermis
• Provide invasive foot care:
  - principles and application of padding
  - contraindications of padding
  - operation of the Dremel Drill
• Access and refer clients as necessary.
• Documentation and reporting.

LPNs providing foot care services are responsible to follow the nursing process throughout care delivery in all settings. In Advanced Foot Care, as with any invasive procedure it is important for the LPN to assess those clients who may be better treated by another regulated health professional and refer the client as appropriate.

LPNs in self-employed practice must follow the Self-Employed Practice Guidelines of the CLPNA.
REFERENCES


Foot Care Standards-Certified Foot Care Nurses Interest Group. College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Manitoba. Retrieved from website November 15, 2004 at www.clpnm.ca


VON One Day Advanced Footcare Course for RNs and LPNs. (Fifth Edition). Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada.