

# Practice Memo

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**DATE:** December 9, 2008

**FROM:** Teresa Bateman, Director of Professional Practice, CLPNA

**TO:** Members and Stakeholders

**RE:** Change in Scope of Practice – Intravenous Initiation

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Initiation of a peripheral intravenous (IV) has been part of the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) scope of practice since 1997. As the LPN role has evolved under the Health Professions Act more LPNs are assuming this competency to further compliment their role. Recently several large tertiary care sites have been providing widespread education for all their LPNs in intramuscular injections, IV medication administration and IV initiation. Currently, LPN students in Alberta learn all components related to peripheral intravenous care with the exception of initiation of the intravenous. Several other LPN jurisdictions in Canada include IV initiation in their basic education.

Due to the changes in many practice settings we believed it was time to add the competency of IV initiation into the basic LPN education. We had discussion with a variety of employers, the Education Standards Advisory Committee (ESAC), and the Alberta Practical Nurse Programs Committee.

At the December 2008 Council Meeting, the CLPNA Council made a motion that IV initiation be included in basic education LPNs graduating in 2010. This information will be communicated with educators directly, employers through the CLPNA ReguLink, and with membership through CARE magazine and the CLPNA website.



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## References:

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- Competency Profile for LPNs (2nd Ed)*. (2005). Edmonton, AB: College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta and Alberta Health and Wellness.
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