



COLLEGE OF  
**LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES**  
OF ALBERTA

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# Policy

## Provisional Registration (Formerly Temporary Registration)

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Revised: January 2020



**This document is linked to legislation:**

[Health Professions Act](#)

[Licensed Practical Nurses Profession Regulation](#)

**This document is linked to other documents that direct expectations of professional behaviour or requirements for practice:**

[Standards of Practice for Licensed Practical Nurses in Canada](#)

[Code of Ethics](#)

[Standards of Practice on Restricted Activities and Advanced Practice](#)

[Entry-Level Competencies for Licensed Practical Nurses](#)

[Competency Profile](#)

[Professional Responsibility and Accountability](#)

*The legislative mandate of the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (CLPNA) is to serve and protect the public by ensuring its members deliver safe, competent, and ethical nursing care. A CLPNA Policy outlines requirements and expected behaviours that will be monitored and enforced.*

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Approver        Council

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**INTRODUCTION** The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (CLPNA) is responsible to regulate the licensed practical nurse (LPN) profession in the interest of public safety. As part of a regulated health profession, LPNs must adhere to professional responsibilities and accountabilities, which are informed by the *Standards of Practice* and *Code of Ethics*.<sup>1</sup> The *Licensed Practical Nurses Profession Regulation* (LPN Regulation) further outlines categories of registration, which applicants can apply to be registered in.<sup>2</sup>

**PURPOSE** The purpose of this practice policy is to clarify the process of provisional registration and to outline the parameters of practice for registrants with a provisional registration practice permit.

**POLICY** Section 6 of the LPN Regulation sets out the requirements and parameters of provisional registration. Provisional registration applies to applicants who have not yet written or are awaiting results from the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE). These applicants include:

- new graduates of an approved practical nursing program in Alberta who have partially met the requirements for general registration under s. 3 of the LPN Regulation; and
- applicants who are assessed for substantial equivalence under s. 9 of the LPN Regulation (e.g. international educated nurses)

**Practice Permits** A **provisional registration practice permit** is issued in accordance with the CLPNA Registration Year and may be issued/extended up to a maximum of 365 calendar days. This practice permit provides authorization for a registrant to begin practicing as an LPN in Alberta prior to successful completion of the CPNRE.

Provisional registrants are eligible to receive an **active practice permit** under general registration after passing the CPNRE. Applicants have three attempts to pass the exam. After three failed attempts, their provisional registration practice permit is cancelled immediately in accordance with section 6(2) of the LPN Regulation. Applicants will

have to retake a full practical nursing program to be considered for future registration.

Usually new graduates write the CPNRE in the province where they completed their practical nursing education. These applicants are typically assessed for an **active practice permit** by the CLPNA. However, new graduates from other Canadian provinces can still apply to be considered for provisional registration in Alberta if they have **not** written the CPNRE.

**Practice Parameters** Provisional registrants are held to the same professional responsibilities and accountabilities as any regulated member of the CLPNA.<sup>3</sup> They are recognized as a “Licensed Practical Nurse”, and are authorized to sign LPN after their name. However, because they are beginning practitioners they must practice under specific parameters.

- 1. Provisional registrants must always practice under supervision (see supervision definitions).**
- 2. The performance of any restricted activities<sup>1</sup> requires indirect remote supervision at minimum. The supervision requirements for each authorized restricted activity are outlined in the CLPNA *Standards of Practice for Licensed Practical Nurses on Restricted Activities and Advanced Practice*.**
- 3. Provisional registrants are only authorized to perform restricted activities requiring advanced authorization after completing advanced training and acquiring approval from the CLPNA Registrar.<sup>2</sup>**
- 4. Provisional registrants may not assume a charge role with the responsibility to assign care and/or supervise another regulated or unregulated health care provider.**

<sup>1</sup> Basic restricted activities are high-risk health services learned through the base practical nurse education program, post-basic educational programs or employer certification.

<sup>2</sup> Activities requiring advanced authorization require completion of an advanced post entry level education program or module approved by the CLPNA and authorization from the Registrar to practice in that area.



The intent of these parameters is to support LPNs who have met the educational requirements for registration but have not yet passed the CPNRE to utilize their skills while waiting to write the exam or receive their exam results. This provisional registration period allows LPNs to increase their nursing proficiency through supervision/mentorship by experienced practitioners, reflective practice, and consolidation of practical nursing knowledge, skills, and clinical judgment.<sup>4</sup> The CLPNA encourages collaborative practice environments to support LPNs practicing with a provisional registration practice permit.

**Supervision** There are three levels of supervision relevant for LPNs with provisional registration practice permits, as they are required to practice under supervision. Other healthcare professionals may only supervise provisional LPN registrants if they are authorized to do so by their regulatory college and employer.

**Direct Supervision:** a regulated member (with the exception of a provisional registrant) or an authorized practitioner is physically present at the point of care.

**Indirect Supervision:** a regulated member (with the exception of a provisional registrant) or an authorized practitioner is available for consultation and guidance, but is not required to be physically present at the point of care. This person providing indirect supervision is **readily available** on site and can go provide assistance when needed.

**Indirect Remote Supervision:** a regulated member (with the exception of a provisional registrant) or an authorized practitioner is available for consultation and guidance, but is not required to be physically present at the point of care. This person providing remote supervision **can be easily contacted through technology** when assistance is needed.

***The CLPNA requires that a supervising member of another regulatory college be on that college's general register.***

**CONCLUSION** LPNs who are provisional registrants are regulated healthcare professionals and have the same professional responsibilities and accountabilities as other members of the CLPNA. Provisional registrants must ensure that they possess the knowledge, skills, and competence to perform all practical nursing practice, including authorized restricted activities. Accordingly, provisional registrants should be aware of the practice parameters outlined above in this policy and the expiry date on their provisional registration practice permit. LPNs, employers, and the public can access this information on the CLPNA website via the [public registry](#).

If after reading this document you have questions about provisional registration, please contact the CLPNA's Registration Team via email at [info@clpna.com](mailto:info@clpna.com), or by phone at 780-484-8886 or 1-800-661-5877 (toll free in Alberta).



## REFERENCES

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- <sup>1</sup> College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (CLPNA), *Professional Responsibility and Accountability* (2017), [https://www.clpna.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/doc\\_Practice\\_Policy\\_Professional\\_Responsibility\\_Accountability.pdf](https://www.clpna.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/doc_Practice_Policy_Professional_Responsibility_Accountability.pdf); Canadian Council for Practical Nurse Regulators (CCPNR), *Standards of Practice for Licensed Practical Nurses in Canada* (2013), [http://www.clpna.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/doc\\_CCPNR\\_CLPNA\\_Standards\\_of\\_Practice.pdf](http://www.clpna.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/doc_CCPNR_CLPNA_Standards_of_Practice.pdf); CCPNR, *Code of Ethics for Licensed Practical Nurses in Canada* (2013), [http://www.clpna.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/doc\\_CCPNR\\_CLPNA\\_Code\\_of\\_Ethics.pdf](http://www.clpna.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/doc_CCPNR_CLPNA_Code_of_Ethics.pdf); CLPNA, *Standards of Practice for Licensed Practical Nurses on Restricted Activities and Advanced Practice* (2020), .  
[https://www.clpna.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/doc\\_Practice\\_Policy\\_Professional\\_Responsibility\\_Accountability.pdf](https://www.clpna.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/doc_Practice_Policy_Professional_Responsibility_Accountability.pdf)
- <sup>2</sup> *Licensed Practical Nurses Profession Regulation*, Alta Reg 81/2003.
- <sup>3</sup> CLPNA, *Professional Responsibility and Accountability*.
- <sup>4</sup> CCPNR, *Entry-Level Competencies for Licensed Practical Nurses* (2019), [https://www.clpna.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/doc\\_CCPNR\\_Entry-Level\\_Competencies\\_LPNs\\_2019E.pdf](https://www.clpna.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/doc_CCPNR_Entry-Level_Competencies_LPNs_2019E.pdf); College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta, *Entry-to-Practice Competencies for the Registered Nurses Profession* (2013), 6-9, [http://www.nurses.ab.ca/content/dam/carna/pdfs/DocumentList/Standards/RN\\_EntryPracticeCompetencies\\_May2013.pdf](http://www.nurses.ab.ca/content/dam/carna/pdfs/DocumentList/Standards/RN_EntryPracticeCompetencies_May2013.pdf).