



CLPNA Council Policy

NEW & ESTABLISHED PRACTICAL NURSE PROGRAM APPROVAL CATEGORIES

INTRODUCTION

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (CLPNA) is mandated by the Health Professions Act¹ (2000) to assure that graduates of diploma level practical nurse programs, specialty education and refresher programs have the necessary knowledge, skills, behaviors, attitudes and judgment to competently engage in professional nursing practice in accordance with current legislation, standards of practice and scope of practice documents.

Leadership for the CLPNA is provided by the Council and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The CEO establishes an Education Standards Advisory Committee (ESAC) as a Standing Committee that reports to the Council of the CLPNA. The Educational Standards Advisory Committee (ESAC) is responsible for establishing and implementing an evaluation process for the diploma-level practical nurse programs, specialty education and refresher programs

BACKGROUND

Bylaw – Part 8 – Education Program Approval 44 (2) The Education Standards Advisory Committee Shall review and provide recommendations to the Council regarding any issue with respect to approving new or revised practical nurse programs or practical nurse specialty programs in Alberta.

APPROVAL CATEGORIES

The *Categories* for ESAC Approval of a NEW Diploma Level Program are:

Approved to Implement Program: This rating authorizes the implementation of a new program. The program has complied with those Program Approval Indicators, which ESAC considers are critical for successful implementation of a Practical Nurse program. A review by ESAC will be carried out during the implementation of the first year of the program. This review is intended to allow for interaction with the first learner group and to provide additional evaluative data to support the ongoing approval of the program.

Interim Approval: This rating recognizes that new programs evolve and require time to stabilize. The ESAC team will return to review the program after the first cohorts of students have completed the program. Approval will be for a maximum of two years. At the end of the Interim Approval term ESAC will conduct a full program review and at this time, the program rating may change to Conditional Approval or Approval in accordance with program performance requirements for established practical nurse programs.

Approval to Implement Program Denied: This rating indicates that the submission for a new program approval did not meet the critical Program Approval Indicators.

¹ Government of Alberta. (2011). *Health Professions Act*, RSA 2000, c.H-7. Edmonton, AB: Alberta Queen's Printer.



Failure to Implement an Approved Program: (approved May 2011): When a new program is approved by the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta, the practical nursing program must be implemented within 12 months of the approved start date. Approval to implement a new practical nursing program will be considered null and void if the institution fails to meet this requirement.

Should the institution wish to proceed with a practical nursing program at a later date, a totally new submission, including a letter of intent, Step 1 and Step 2 submissions as outlined in the new program approval process, and corresponding fees will be required.

Other Approval Considerations

Warning: A “Warning” action may be designated to specific Standard indicators where noncompliance may have detrimental effects on the ability to deliver the Practical Nurse Education Program (e.g., legal contracts, insufficient qualified faculty, safety concerns). The program will be expected to be in compliance within the term specified. Although the program is not required to notify the student or public about a warning action, the ESAC Chair must inform the President of the Institution of the pending warning.

Failure of the institution to comply to the “Warning” to the satisfaction of the CLPNA Council could result in the decision by the Council to put the program on interim approval or conditional approval or approval-withdrawn status.

The *categories* for approval of an Established Practical Nurse program are:

Full Approval – the Diploma Level Practical Nurse program approval process is generally on a four-year cycle. If the Program has met the minimum standard of 8 of 10 critical indicators and 80% of the remaining indicators, ESAC will recommend to Council a full approval. The program is expected to continue to work towards meeting all indicators.

Full approval may be impacted if non-attainment of any indicator may have detrimental effects on students or compromises delivery of the Practical Nurse Education Program. Full approval may not be granted despite percentages of compliance.

Approval with Conditions – this rating indicates that the program met less than 8 of the 10 critical indicators and/or less than 80% of the remaining indicators. An Approval with Conditions will specify the length of approval and timelines for compliance. A program may reverse their Approval with Conditions status to full approval provided that they meet all conditions stipulated in their Program Review with supporting evidence within the timeline specified after the site visit. Note: The program is expected to alert current and future students of their change in Approval status.

Approval Withdrawn –When approval is withdrawn, a program that was operating with Approval with Conditions was unable to take corrective action within the specified timeline or to achieve compliance.

When the CLPNA Council withdraws program approval status, the date on which the approval ceases is stipulated in the letter sent to the Lead of the Practical Nurse Education Program and the President of the institution. The school must make alternate arrangements to enable the students to complete the program.