

K: Surgical

Please note: Competencies within this section of the Profile are to be taken in consideration with competencies outlined throughout this document and are not intended to be standalone.

Important: LPNs are responsible to ensure they have any required education or training and the individual competence prior to performing these competencies.

Major Competency

K: Surgical

Competency

K-1: Surgical Nursing and Interventions

Competency Statement - A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

K-1-1 Demonstrate knowledge of clinical pathways related to surgical procedures:

- preoperative
- intraoperative
- postoperative
- anticipated and unanticipated outcomes
- complications

K-1-2 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to provide education to the surgical patient:

- deep breathing and coughing
- dietary needs and restrictions
- drains and tubes
- discharge planning
- incentive spirometry
- pain management
- mobility and exercise
- rehabilitation and restorative care
- referrals
- surgical site and wound management
- personal directives and Goals of Care

K-1-3 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to perform preoperative care according to employer requirements:

- confirm oral intake
- primary contact information
- ensure informed consent
- preoperative history and assessment
- pre-surgical preparation
- transfer patient to operating room

K-1-4 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to receive patient from recovery room and perform postoperative care:

- review and initiate postoperative orders
- initial and ongoing postoperative assessment:
 - binders and compression devices
 - casts, splints, orthopedic devices
 - cognitive and neurovascular status
 - dermatome checks
 - dressings, wounds, drainage devices
 - infusion therapy
 - vital signs
- safety precautions, mobilization, and transfer methods
- nutrition and elimination needs
- pain assessment and management

K-1-5 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to assess and manage surgical incision and wound care:

- dressings
- empty, irrigate, shorten, and remove drains
- packing and removal of packing

Major Competency
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Competency
K-2: Endoscopy

Competency Statement - A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

K-2-1 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to perform pre-procedural care for endoscopy patient:

- admission assessment
- complete health and medication history
- pre-procedural checklist
- medication administration

K-2-2 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to monitor procedural sedation:

- consider risks and precautions
- continuous assessment of patient status
- infusion management

K-2-3 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to perform post-procedural care:

- monitor vital signs
- pain and comfort management
- monitor and manage complications
- discharge teaching and referral

K-2-4 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to administer procedural sedation according to employer requirements.

K-2-5 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to assist with or perform endoscopy procedures according to employer requirements and physician direction with the exception of advancing or withdrawing (manipulating) the scope:

- upper and lower gastrointestinal procedures
- pulmonary procedures
- stabilize scope for visualization
- manage inflation and deflation
- sub mucosal and intramural injection and tattoo marking
- specimen procurement and clipping
- prepare cautery equipment and band devices
- prepare and deliver Hemospray
- prepare and label specimens

K-2-6 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to perform post-procedural equipment cleaning and preparation for sterilization, according to employer requirements.

Major Competency

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K-3: Post Anesthetic Recovery

Competency Statement - A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

K-3-1 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to receive and manage patient for post anesthetic recovery on a surgical unit:

- initial and continuing assessment:
 - monitor and manage infusions
 - level of consciousness
 - pain and comfort management
 - output (urine, blood)
 - vital signs
 - wounds and drains
 - emergence from anesthesia
- medication administration
- monitor for changes in patient status
- postoperative complications
- post-operative checklist and documentation

K-3-2 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to receive and manage patient for immediate post anesthetic recovery in post anesthetic care unit (PACU):

- initial and continuing assessment:
 - monitor and manage infusions
 - level of consciousness
 - pain and comfort management
 - output (urine and blood)
 - vital signs
 - wounds and drains
 - emergence from anesthesia
- obtain specimens
- administer medications
- monitor for changes in patient status
- post-operative complications
- consult and collaborate with inter-professional team
- determine transfer out of post anesthetic care unit
- post-operative checklist and documentation

Major Competency

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K-4: Advanced Practice Perioperative Nursing

Competency Statement - A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

Note: Licensed Practical Nurses in Alberta must successfully complete Council approved education and have advanced authorization by the CLPNA Registrar to practice in the area of Advanced Practice Perioperative Nursing. (see Standards of Practice #23, section Z of this document).

K-4-1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of restricted activities related to perioperative nursing in the Health Professions Act's Licensed Practical Nurses Profession Regulation.

K-4-2 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to provide LPN advanced practice perioperative nursing care in accordance with professional legislation, regulations, CLPNA Standards of Practice, and any CLPNA guidelines.

LPN Profession Regulation:

section 16(2) A regulated member who has completed advanced training approved by the Council and has been specifically authorized to do so by the Registrar on the basis of that training may, in the practice of licensed practical nursing and in accordance with the standards of practice, perform the restricted activity of cutting a body tissue, administering anything by an 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:

(b) performing activities under the direction of an authorized practitioner who is performing surgery.

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K-4: Advanced Practice Perioperative Nursing

Competency Statement - A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

K-4-3 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to provide specialized perioperative nursing care:

- admission, discharge, and transfer of patient
- advocate for patient
- anesthesia methods and protocols
- asepsis and sterile techniques
- patient and team safety
- crash cart, defibrillator, and code protocol
- documentation and reporting
- infection prevention and control standards
- maintain and uphold policy and procedure
- administer pre, intra, and post-operative medication(s)
- ordering of supplies and equipment
- appropriate response to complications of anesthesia
- sterile hand scrub and gowning
- surgical procedures, protocols, and related disease processes

K-4-4 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to perform decontamination and disinfection procedures within the surgical setting:

- surgical instruments
- electro-surgical tools
- endoscopes and instrumentation
- laser equipment
- power tools
- robotic equipment
- video equipment

K-4-5 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to receive and monitor patient in pre-operative area:

- check patient chart for completeness
- review health history
- verify signed consent
- complete pre-operative checklist and verify surgical site
- provide emotional support and relevant information to patient and family
- provide comfort measures
- check infusion and output
- assist with pre-operative examination as required
- communicate and documents relevant findings

K-4-6 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to assist anesthesia provider:

- check anesthetic machine and cart and restock required supplies
- initiate intravenous and prepare supplies for anesthesia provider
- assist during induction
 - intubation, fixation, and connection of endotracheal tube
 - provide cricoid pressure if required
- apply eye protection to patient as necessary
- check blood and blood products
- assist with extubation and reversal of anesthesia
- assist with transport of the intubated or extubated post-operative patient to post-anesthetic recovery room (PARR) or intensive care unit (ICU)

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K-4: Advanced Practice Perioperative Nursing

Competency Statement - A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

K-4-7 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to fulfill the responsibilities of the perioperative circulating role:

- responsiveness to surgical team throughout procedure
- prepare equipment and room supplies specific to operative procedure and surgeon preference
- notify all inter-professional personnel required for surgical case
- ensure x-rays and diagnostic tests are available if required
- confirm or complete pre-operative assessment and checklist
- transport or receive patient to the operating room and complete appropriate checks
- safely position and secure patient on operating table
- reassure patient and explain procedure
- complete safe surgery checklist
- apply required monitoring equipment
- assist anesthesia provider with intubation and induction
- reposition patient for surgical procedure as required
- insert urinary catheter as required
- prepare operative site according to specific protocols
- assist with draping
- connect suction, cautery, and equipment as required
- prepare medications and irrigations for administration
- appropriately handle and label all specimens
- inspect and open sterile supplies and pass to scrub nurse
- obtain additional instruments and supplies as required
- manage intra-operative sterilization if required
- accurately complete intra-operative case record
- document fluid output
- document unusual incidents with follow up action required
- monitor vital signs
- participate in all surgical instrument and supply counts
- assist with transfer of patient from operating table to stretcher
- assist with transport of intubated or extubated post-operative patient to post-anesthetic recovery room (PARR) or intensive care unit (ICU)

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K-4: Advanced Practice Perioperative Nursing

Competency Statement - A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

K-4-8 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to fulfill the responsibilities of the perioperative scrub role:

- check case cart and supplies
- prepare and maintain efficient sterile set-up and technique
- ensure equipment and instrumentation is available, set up, and in good repair
- perform skin prep prior to procedure
- drape patient for procedure
- complete safe surgery checklist prior to incision
- assist surgical team with sterile gowning and gloving
- organize and handle surgical instruments, equipment, and sutures
- provide instruments and supplies to surgeon and surgical team
- sponge, suction, and retract incision as directed
- observe for break in sterile technique
- assist with re-establishing sterile field if required
- accurately identify specimens and pass to circulating nurse
- anticipate unexpected or adverse events and respond appropriately
- handle and prepare medications and contrast agents
- effectively communicate with surgical team
- participate in all surgical instrument and supply counts
- assist with skin closure and apply sterile dressing
- verify accuracy of intra-operative case record
- assist with transfer of patient from operating table to stretcher
- assist with transport of intubated or extubated post-operative patient to post-anesthetic recovery room (PARR) or intensive care unit (ICU)