

Nursing Practice Self-Assessment Tool

In order to practice as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in Alberta, you must have a valid practice permit from the College of LPNs and HCAs of Alberta (CLHA).

The practice of practical nursing can occur in a variety of roles and settings. It is important to note that the practice of practical nursing is not the same as being employed as a practical nurse because a job title may not reflect the roles and responsibilities of a practical nurse.

The CLHA provides the following self-assessment tool to help you determine if your role is within the practice of practical nursing in Alberta. Completing this self-assessment tool will help you demonstrate whether your LPN role is considered practical nursing according to Alberta's *Health Professions Act* (HPA) and the CLHA's policies, and therefore whether that time could be used as practice hours on the CLHA's Registration Renewal form or for the Continuing Competence Program.

You do not need to send the CLHA your self-assessment unless requested during an audit for the Continuing Competence Program.

What Is the Practice of Practical Nursing?

Practical nursing services are outlined in Schedule 10 of the HPA. Section 3 of Schedule 10 provides the following scope of practice statement:

In their practice, licensed practical nurses do one or more of the following:

- (a) apply nursing knowledge, skills and judgment to assess client needs,
- (b) provide nursing care for clients and families,
 - (b.1) teach, manage and conduct research in the science, techniques and practice of nursing, and
- (c) provide restricted activities authorized by the regulations.

Practical nursing services encompass both clinical nursing practice and/or roles in administration, management, education, and research.

The CLHA defines "practice hours" as the "*hours providing practical nursing services to non-family members.*" The CLHA's *Standards of Practice on the Continuing Competence Program* outlines practice hour requirements for active registration as part of the Continuing Competence Program.

Am I Practicing Practical Nursing?

Reflect on your current role or position in Alberta. Answer the following yes/no questions based on how each question applies to your current role.

These questions will help you determine whether your role is considered practical nursing and may be considered valid for practice hours requirements for Registration Renewal or for the Continuing Competence Program.

Nursing Assessments (Can you answer **yes** to at least ONE of the following?):

- 1. Do you use your nursing knowledge, skill, and judgment in your role?
- 2. Do you provide at least one restricted activity that LPNs are authorized to perform by the *Health Professions Restricted Activity Regulation*?
- 3. Do you communicate with clients, families, students, other LPNs, or the public about nursing interventions or plans of care?
- 4. Do you collaborate with other healthcare providers?
- 5. Do you manage or co-manage staff, facilities, equipment, or other healthcare resources?
- 6. Would you, your employer, or the public expect you to use the title of LPN while applying your nursing knowledge in your role?
- 7. Do you teach or educate clients, families, students, other LPNs, or the public about theory, research, or techniques involved in the practice of practical nursing?
- 8. Do you conduct research in the science, techniques, or practice of nursing?

Nursing Outcomes (Can you answer **yes** to at least ONE of the following?):

- 1. Do you have a direct or indirect effect on client care?
- 2. Do you have a direct or indirect effect on the healthcare system?
- 3. Do you review client health records to identify, determine, or report health outcomes?
- 4. Do you create, review, or evaluate healthcare policy?

Professional Accountability (Can you answer **yes** to ALL questions?):

- 1. Do you adhere to the *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice* of the CLHA?
- 2. Do you follow the legislative requirements documented in the *Health Professions Act* and the *Licensed Practical Nurses and Health Care Aides Profession Regulation*?
- 3. Do you work within the scope of a licensed practical nurse?

Do you meet the minimum requirements for each of the four categories above?

If **yes**, then your self-assessment indicates that your role meets the requirements for the practice of practical nursing in Alberta.

While this self-assessment tool is not mandatory to complete, if you are audited by the CLHA it may help you in demonstrating how your non-traditional role meets the practice hour requirements for maintaining registration as an LPN in Alberta.

If you have concerns that your role might not be accurately assessed or does not fit within the practice of practical nursing, please contact the CLHA's Registration Department at ccp@clha.com, 780-484-8886 or 1-800-661-5877 (toll-free in Alberta).