

Performing Procedures Below the Mucous Membrane in Endoscopy

Effective: October 8, 2026

INTRODUCTION

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses and Health Care Aides of Alberta (CLHA) has the authority under the *Health Professions Act* (HPA) to carry out its activities and govern Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs)* in a manner that protects and serves the public interest.

LPNs are responsible and accountable for adhering to the legislation, regulations, standards of practice, code of ethics, and other regulatory documents that govern the LPN profession.

PURPOSE

This policy authorizes LPNs to perform the following restricted activity or a portion of the following restricted activity in the practice of endoscopy under the direct supervision of a registrant of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) during endoscopy procedures.

1.3(1)(a) to cut a body tissue, to administer anything by an invasive procedure on body tissue or to perform surgical or other invasive procedures on body tissue (i) below the dermis or mucous membrane.

It also specifies the regulatory requirements and practice expectations to do so. This policy aligns with section 1.6 of the HPA, which permits LPNs to carry out restricted activities not authorized under the *Health Professions Restricted Activity Regulation* (HPRAR) as long as supervision requirements and other conditions are met.

Please note that this policy applies only to LPNs working in the endoscopy practice area.

POLICY

Section 1.3(1) of the HPA outlines restricted activities that require authorization, specific skills, and competence to perform. Some endoscopic procedures involve performing a restricted activity, which LPNs are not authorized to perform under the HPRAR. However, they may be authorized under section 1.6(1)(a)(v) and (b) of the HPA if certain conditions are met. Some

* In this document, "LPN(s)" has the same meaning as "regulated member(s)" in the *Health Professions Act*.

examples of these procedures include, but are not limited to, tattooing, intramural injections, removal of foreign bodies, and bronchoscopy.

LPN Authorization

In accordance with section 1.6(1)(b) of the HPA, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) *Standards of Practice on Restricted Activities* allows a physician or surgeon to supervise regulated members of other regulatory colleges in performing restricted activities. This includes activities that the regulated member is otherwise not authorized to perform. For example, a physician or surgeon may consent and supervise an LPN in assisting with or performing endoscopy procedures below the mucous membrane as long as this is done in accordance with the CPSA Standards of Practice, and the CLHA has authorized the LPN to perform this restricted activity.

Pursuant to this policy, CLHA authorizes an LPN to 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 or mucous membrane[†]. This must be done under the direct supervision of a physician or surgeon, and only if all the following conditions are met:

- The LPN has the education, training, and competence to perform the restricted activity or perform a portion of the restricted activity in this policy and has signed and submitted a declaration form to the CLHA to confirm this.
- The supervising physician or surgeon is available to provide direct supervision during the procedure and is available for immediate assistance if required.
- The LPN is authorized by their employer to perform the restricted activity or a portion of the restricted activity noted in this policy during endoscopy procedures.
- The LPN has the consent of and is being supervised by a physician or surgeon who is registered with the CPSA and is authorized to perform and supervise that procedure.

Declaration Form

The CLHA requires that all LPNs who perform the restricted activity or perform a portion of the restricted activity in this policy, in endoscopy, sign a declaration form stating that they are trained and competent.

The declaration form will confirm the following:

- The LPN has received training and education from their employer and has the knowledge, skills, and competence to perform the restricted activity or a portion of the restricted activity stated in this policy.

[†] *Health Professions Act, RSA 2000, c. H-7, section 1.3(1)(a)(i)*

- The LPN will only assist with or perform an endoscopy procedure under the direct supervision of a physician or surgeon. Direct supervision means the physician or surgeon is physically present at the point of care. This means the physician or surgeon is in the same physical location as the LPN and client during the performance of the restricted activity.
- The LPN is employed with Alberta Health Services (AHS), Lamont Health Care Centre, or Covenant Health and may perform the restricted activity noted above only in AHS, Lamont Health Care Centre, and Covenant Health facilities.
- The LPN continues to meet all registration requirements with the CLHA. This includes, but is not limited to, maintaining and updating employment information in their MyCLHA account.
- The LPN adheres to all conditions on their practice permit (if any are present), the CLHA standards of practice, code of ethics, and this policy, and completes the Continuing Competence Program requirements.

For more information about the declaration form, please contact the CLHA Registration Department at lpnregistration@clha.com.

CONCLUSION

LPNs have the responsibility to practice in a competent, ethical, and safe manner. This policy authorizes LPNs working in the practice of endoscopy to perform the restricted activity or a portion of the restricted activity outlined in this policy during an endoscopy procedure under the stated conditions.

Documents are updated frequently. For the most current version and access to related documents and resources, please visit the Knowledge Hub on clha.com.

If after reading this document you have questions about this topic, please contact the CLHA's Professional Practice Team at practice@clha.com, 780-484-8886 or 1-800-661-5877 (toll free in Alberta).