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Message from the Executive Director/Registrar

Mandatory Education Requirements for LPNs



Paul D. Fisher, LPN (Executive Director/Registrar, CLPNNL)

The primary responsibility of the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador (CLPNNL) is to protect the public. The public has the right to expect that all LPNs are educationally prepared to provide safe, competent and ethical nursing care. Continuous learning and maintaining competence for all health professionals is an issue that is assuming primary emphasis in today's health care system. For the public to be assured that LPNs are competent to provide safe, competent and ethical nursing care it is a necessity that LPNs engage in life long learning. As LPNs you are constantly required to reflect on your practice to ensure you have the necessary education to provide the nursing care required for a changing society and the health care environment and, as a result of that reflection, take the appropriate action to acquire and develop new competencies or enhance the competencies you have.

Provincially, as the LPN profession has continued to evolve, with the inclusion of Medication Administration (1996/97) and Health Assessment (2001/02) as core competencies for the entry level practitioner, a competency gap has been created between the novice and expert LPNs. In an effort to eliminate this competency gap and to ensure the CLPNNL is fulfilling its mandate of public protection **the Board of the CLPNNL has decided that effective April 1, 2012 all LPNs providing nursing services to patients / clients / residents must have completed approved courses in Medication Administration and Health Assessment.** Therefore, effective April 1, 2012 only those practical nurses that have successfully completed this education (Medication Administration and Health Assessment) will be eligible for licensure as a practical nurse. If you have not completed this education I strongly encourage you to contact the Centre for Nursing Studies (Phone: 777-8162 Toll Free: 1-888-290-6272 Email: mbrowne@cns.nf.ca) to determine when you may enroll in these courses to meet the April 1, 2012 deadline.

If you have successfully completed courses in medication administration or health assessment other than those offered through the Centre for Nursing Studies (i.e. Paramedic and Pharmacy Technician) you must contact the CLPNNL so that a determination can be made regarding equivalency of those courses.

College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador

9 Paton Street, St. John's, NL A1B 4S8

Telephone: (709) 579-3843 • Toll Free: 1-888-579-2576 • Fax: (709) 579-8268

E-Mail: info@clpnnl.ca • Web Site: www.clpnnl.ca