



## English Language Proficiency Fact Sheet 2021

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador (CLPNNL) has the legislated responsibility, in accordance with the *Licensed Practical Nurses Act (2005)*, to regulate the practice of Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) in Newfoundland and Labrador. It is the mandate of CLPNNL to promote safety and protect the public through the provision of safe, competent, compassionate, and ethical nursing care.

As outlined in Section 3(b) of the *Regulations (2011)*, to qualify to practice as a practical nurse in Newfoundland and Labrador, in addition to the requirements set out in section 12 of the *Licensed Practical Nurses Act (2005)*, the applicant must demonstrate proficiency in the English language sufficient to enable the applicant to practise as a licensed practical nurse in the province.

### Who is required to demonstrate English Language Proficiency?

1. An applicant for licensure from a jurisdiction outside Canada, whose first language **is English** may demonstrate English language proficiency in one of the following ways:
  - a. If the primary language where the applicant has lived and worked is English AND there is evidence that instruction in both theory and clinical in the nursing education program completed was in English. Verification is required directly from the applicant's school of nursing.
  - b. If there is evidence of safe practice within the last two years as a nurse, where services were provided in English and where the primary language of the practice setting, and clients was English. Verification is required directly from the employer(s).
2. An applicant for licensure from a jurisdiction outside Canada, whose first language **is not English** may demonstrate English language proficiency in one of the following ways:
  - a. An applicant who completed a full education program for practical nurses in Canada may be eligible for licensure following the submission of documentation confirming that the language of instruction for both theory and clinical was English.
  - b. By submitting language test scores from one of the following Board approved language proficiency tests:
    - i. Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses (CELBAN)—  
Official version [www.celbancentre.ca](http://www.celbancentre.ca)
    - ii. International English Language Testing System (IELTS)—Academic version  
[www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)

**What test scores are accepted by CLPNNL?**

Test	CELBAN	IELTS
Listening	10	7.5
Reading	8	6.5
Writing	7	7.0
Speaking	8	7.0
Overall Score	N/A	7.0

**How long are the test results of English language proficiency valid?**

The scores are valid for two years from the date of testing. CLPNNL requires that applicant test scores be dated within six months of the time of application for licensure.

**What if my test of English language proficiency scores expires (i.e. become more than 2 years old) during the application process?**

Applicants whose test scores expire during the application process will be required to repeat the test prior to being approved to write the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Exam (CPNRE) or becoming licensed with CLPNNL.

**Can I send a photocopy of my English language proficiency scores?**

No. An official copy of the results must be submitted with the application for licensure.

**Original Policy:** November 2019

**Revised:** June 2021