



Q: I have taken a temporary license in response to COVID-19 and will be returning to practice. How will I know what I can and cannot do?

A: You must consider what the scope of your practice includes: What you are educated and authorised to perform.

Educated: You must know what you are educated to do and what you do not know how to do, as well as knowing how to carry out a skill well enough to do it safely. This applies to skills you learned both in your PN education program and those post-basic competencies you acquired in some other way (e.g., in-service, module, course). You also must reflect on what skills you might not have performed in a while and need to refresh.

For example: you may have been proficient in inserting IVs. Perhaps you have not inserted an IV in a long time¹. Do you need to review the theory? Do you need to learn about the new equipment, or equipment used in this particular area (such as type or size of angiocath)?

Are there skills required in the area you are going to that you have not acquired yet? You must identify how you will acquire this knowledge. Is your employer providing it? Are you expected to attain this before returning to Practice? It is important to note that education includes both acquiring the theory and applying that theory in practice.

Authorised: Are the skills you will carry out identified in the CLPNNL's Competency Profile? This is where you will find the listing of activities that LPNs, with the right education and practice experience, could potentially carry out in this province. You must also know from the list of activities outlined in the [Competency Profile](#), what your employer allows you to perform (often identified in policy).

The skills you can perform in the practice area are always bounded by what you are educated and authorised to perform. As a self-regulated professional you are always responsible (the obligation to act) and accountable (the obligation to answer for that action) for your practice.

¹ The CLPNNL does not determine the frequency with which a skill must be carried out to maintain competence. The LPN must determine their own competence and reflect on employer requirements.