



## LPN Decision-Making Tool

### Part 1: Scope of Practice

This is the first in a three-part series of LPN decision-making tools. The second part will focus on assignment of care (September 2019 edition of *PRACTICE*), and the third part will focus on independence and collaboration in practice (January 2020 edition of *PRACTICE*).

### CAN I DO THAT?

When determining if you<sup>1</sup> can carry out a nursing activity you must reflect on whether the activity is within your scope of practice. Your 'scope' is determined by your education, your competence, and your authorization.

#### Education:

- Did you learn how to carry out the activity:
  - o in your practical nursing program?
  - o as part of your continuing (post-basic) education?
    - If yes, you might proceed.
    - If no, stop and determine what education and practice experience is required.

#### Competence:

- Have you maintained your ability to carry out the activity safely?
  - If yes, you might proceed.
  - If no, stop and determine what education and practice experience is required.

#### Authorization:

- Is the activity approved<sup>2</sup> for LPN practice by CLPNNL?
  - If yes, you might proceed.
  - If No, stop. Consult with your employer &/or CLPNNL.
- Does your employer<sup>3</sup> authorize you to carry out this activity?
  - If yes, you might proceed.
  - If no, stop. Consult with your employer.

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<sup>1</sup> The LPN must also determine they are the most appropriate care provider to carry out this activity for this client at this time and in this place.

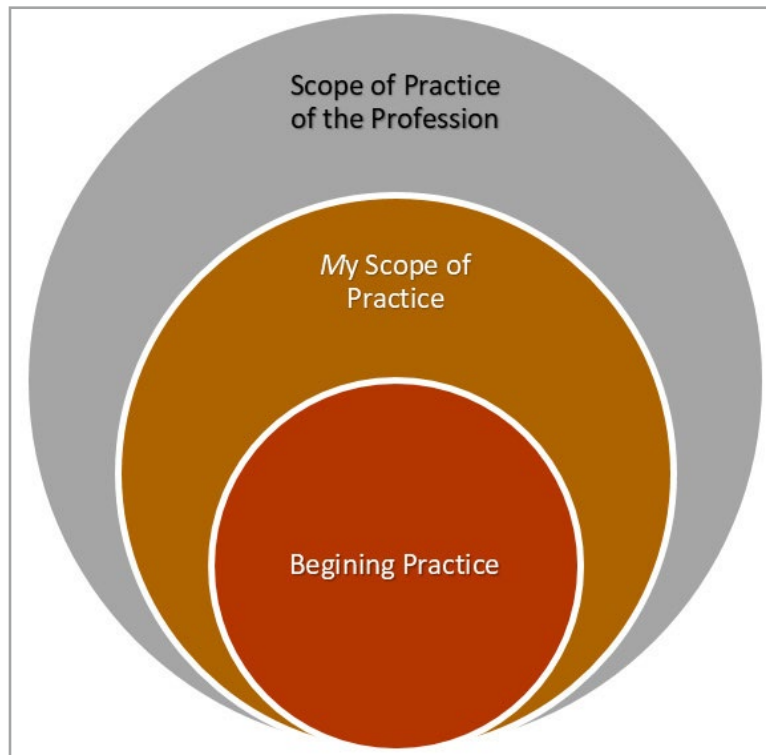
<sup>2</sup> The CLPNNL Competency profile, available on the CLPNNL website, lists activities that are included in the scope of practice for LPNs in Newfoundland and Labrador.

<sup>3</sup> LPNs in self-employment refer to the CLPNNL document [Self-Employment Practice Guideline](#)

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## ***My* Scope of Practice Versus The Scope of Practice of the Profession**



**Scope of Practice:** **the range of roles, functions, responsibilities and activities that LPNs are educated, competent, and authorized to perform.**

Over time a LPN's Scope of Practice will expand to reflect new knowledge and practice experiences. No one LPN will know how to competently perform ALL the activities authorized to be within the scope of practice of the profession.

It is the responsibility of every LPN to know their own scope of practice.