

November 18, 2021

The Licensed Practical Nurses Act, 2005 Amended to Support Accountability to the Public and the Evolving LPN Scope of Practice.

In the fall 2021 session of the House of Assembly the Honourable Dr. John Haggie, Minister of Health and Community Services, introduced Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Licensed Practical Nurses Act, 2005. On November 4, 2021, the Bill received Royal Assent.

The amendments to the Act reflect the evolution of the profession of practical nursing in the province and strengthen the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador's (CLPNNL's) mandate to promote safety and protect the public through the provision of safe, competent, compassionate, and ethical nursing care.

The definition of a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) has been updated to reflect the role LPNs perform in the health system today. Broadening the definition of a Licensed Practical Nurse aligns with the evolving scope of practice of LPNs to meet the current and emerging health needs of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The additional requirement for a Quality Assurance Committee brings CLPNNL in line with provincial and national regulatory counterparts in providing the authority to be proactive in supporting safe practice and preventing poor practice. Further, the addition of a Duty to Report clause strengthens each LPN's commitment to safe, competent care. LPNs have always had a moral and professional obligation in relation to the Duty to Report, as required by the College. This amendment to the Licensed Practical Nurses Act elevates the Duty to Report to a legislative requirement.

CLPNNL is delighted that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has included gender neutral pronouns in the amended sections. This is an important step in inclusivity and diversity.

CLPNNL looks forward to offering education sessions and engaging in discussions related to these legislative changes. The amended LPN Act, 2005 is available on-line and is linked [here](#).

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