LEGISLATIVE INTERPRETATIONS

CLPNS
COLLEGE OF LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES OF SASKATCHEWAN

Graduate Licensed Practical Nurse

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The legislated mandate of the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Saskatchewan is to protect the public through the regulation of Licensed Practical Nurses.

Who is a Graduate Licensed Practical Nurse (GLPN)

A GLPN is a practical nurse who is registered and licensed with the CLPNS and is:

a. A graduate of an approved practical nurse education program or;
b. an internationally educated nurse (IEN) who completed a nursing education program alleged to be equivalent to a recognized practical nurse education program.[1]

GLPNs have either not yet written the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE) or have not received notification they passed the CPNRE.

Graduates of a practical nurse education program or IENs alleged to have equivalent nursing education are not required to register as a GLPN before writing the CPNRE. However, if they register as a GLPN, they must write the CPNRE at the exam's first available writing. If eligible graduates or IENs intend to work before writing/passing the CPNRE, they must be registered and licensed with the CLPNS as a GLPN.

GLPN Professional Scope of Practice and Responsibilities

The GLPN professional scope of practice [2] is identical to the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) professional scope of practice.

Canadian-trained GLPNs are beginning their practice and have a theoretical and experiential knowledge base shaped by their experiences during their practice nurse education. Practical nurse education programs educate students to meet the LPN entry-level competencies (ELCs). ELCs are foundational elements of nursing practice and provide a means to measure the capability of the entry-level GLPN or LPN to integrate knowledge, skill, ability, and judgment to practice safely and ethically. Therefore, there is an expectation that all GLPNs and new LPN graduates meet entry-level competencies.

Internationally trained GLPNs are beginning their practice in Saskatchewan and will build off of their previous nursing knowledge and experience obtained outside of Canada.

GLPNs must comply with the Code of Ethics and the Standards of Practice. The Code of Ethics articulates the ethical values and responsibilities LPNs are accountable to and shall uphold and promote. The Standards of Practice are a framework for GLPN/LPN practice and outline the minimally expected levels of practitioner behaviour, which is what the CLPNS measures their actual behaviour against.

GLPNs may be the subject of a complaint to the CLPNS regarding professional misconduct or incompetence if they fail to comply or adhere to the LPN Code of Ethics or Standards of Practice.

The CLPNS's Complaint, Investigation, and Discipline (CID) processes are the same for GLPNs and LPNs in Saskatchewan.

To qualify for initial GLPN licensure, an applicant must:

- Apply for the CPNRE and GLPN licensure and pay the associated application and licensure fees
- Obtain a new criminal record check [3] from either:
    - a local police department, or
    - a Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) detachment
- Meet the English language proficiency requirement set by the CLPNS Council, if necessary

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1 Approved practical nursing programs in Saskatchewan are offered by, or brokered from, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology and Saskatchewan Polytechnic or programs from another jurisdiction that are recognized by the CLPNS Council.

2 The professional scope of practice is defined by legislation and articulated in *LPN Practice in Saskatchewan.*

3 Criminal record checks and vulnerable sector queries cannot be older than 6 months

- Submit Practical Nurse Education Program transcripts (SK PN program graduates)
- Submit the transcripts for completed remedial courses, if applicable (IENs only)

The complete application information is available on the CLPNS website.

GLPN Practice

Although there are no specific limitations on their professional scope of practice, the GLPN has a limited role compared to an LPN. The GLPN must work under the direct supervision of a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Registered Nurse (RN), or Registered Psychiatric Nurse (RPN). The supervising nurse[4] is an individual who provides in-person guidance, support, direction, and corrective action to a GLPN. Direct supervision requires the supervising nurse to be readily available on-site and to assume overall responsibility for the GLPN's patient assignment. The supervising nurse should provide the following:

- Supervision
- Assistance with duties, and
- Guidance, support, and advice

Direct supervision requires the GLPN to have frequent and direct physical access to the supervising nurse. Access by telephone, email, or text message is NOT acceptable. The GLPN and the supervising nurse work together in collaborative practice. The level of supervision may decrease as the GLPN's level of competence increases, but the supervisory requirements do not.

There are areas of practice or situations where direct supervision is difficult or impossible to achieve. The GLPN is accountable for ensuring they do not accept employment or assignments where the supervision requirement is difficult to meet or nonexistent.

Continuing Education Portfolio (CEP) Program

The CLPNS expects GLPNs to obtain CEP hours from the time they become licensed with the CLPNS. The CEP Legislative Interpretation document provides further details on the CEP program, and all GLPNs should become familiar with their obligations under this program.

Privileges of GLPN Membership

GLPN privileges include:

- receiving regular notices from the CLPNS,
- eligible to attend, participate in, and vote in all CLPNS meetings.

4 A supervising nurse is the LPN, RN, or RPN assigned to provide direct supervision of the GLPN.

References

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