

## PRACTICE STANDARD

# Licensed Practical Nurses: Acting under Client-specific Orders

## Introduction

The *Licensed Practical Nurses: Acting under Client-specific Orders* standards, limits, and conditions set the expectations that licensed practical nurses must meet when they are performing **activities** that they are competent and allowed to perform under **client-specific orders**.

Licensed practical nurses' scope of practice under the *Nurses and Midwives Regulation* includes providing health services for the purpose of promoting, maintaining and restoring clients' physical and mental health, with a focus on stable or predictable states of health.

For the restricted activities listed in section 36 and 37 of the *Nurses and Midwives Regulation*, a licensed practical nurse may perform the activity only if acting under a client-specific order given by a physician, nurse practitioner, dentist, midwife, naturopathic physician, podiatrist, pharmacist, registered nurse, registered psychiatric nurse, or dietitian.

Depending on organizational or employer policies and processes, certain health professionals not named in the *Nurses and Midwives Regulation* may still give client-specific orders for activities already within the nurse's autonomous scope of practice. These orders are not legally required since the activity is already authorized within the nurse's scope, but the specialized expertise and competence of the other health professionals can help determine the best care for the client and strengthen team-based assessment and care planning.

## Standards

1. Licensed practical nurses require a **client-specific order** before performing any **activity** that is not within the licensed practical nurse's autonomous scope of practice.
2. Licensed practical nurses acting under a client-specific order ensure that the ordered activity is:
  - a. Either one of the restricted activities identified in section 36 or 37 of the *Nurses and Midwives Regulation* that licensed practical nurses may perform when acting under an order or an activity within the licensed practical nurse's autonomous scope of practice,
  - b. Consistent with BCCNM's ethics standards and practice standards, including any applicable limits and conditions on performing the activity,
  - c. Consistent with organizational/employer policies, processes, and restrictions, and
  - d. Within their individual **competence**.

3. Licensed practical nurses acting under a client-specific order ensure that they have the competence to:
  - a. Perform the activity safely and ethically,
  - b. Identify potential risks of the activity to the client and know how to minimize those risks, and
  - c. Recognize and manage the intended and unintended outcomes of the activity.
4. Before performing an activity under a client-specific order, licensed practical nurses consider applicable employer/organizational policies, processes, restrictions, and resources, and other relevant human and system factors that may impact their ability to:
  - a. Perform the activity competently and safely within their practice setting, and
  - b. To manage intended and unintended outcomes of the activity.
5. Licensed practical nurses perform **advanced activities** with a client-specific order only when they have obtained the **additional education**, training, and/or clinical experience needed to gain and maintain the competence to perform the activity safely.
6. Licensed practical nurses acting under a client-specific order ensure that the order:
  - a. Is client-specific,
  - b. Is clear and complete,
  - c. Is documented, legible, dated and signed with a written/electronic signature, and
  - d. Contains enough information for the nurse to carry it out safely.
7. Licensed practical nurses accept a verbal or telephone client-specific order only when there is no reasonable<sup>1</sup> alternative, according to organizational/employer policies and processes, and when doing so is in the best interest of the client. Nurses repeat the client-specific order back to the ordering health professional to confirm its accuracy and promptly document the order.
8. Licensed practical nurses conduct assessments to ensure that the client's condition continues to warrant the activity before acting under a client-specific order.
9. Licensed practical nurses may not change or cancel a client-specific order when the activity is outside of the licensed practical nurse's autonomous scope of practice or the licensed practical nurse's individual competence.
10. Licensed practical nurses communicate and collaborate with the health professional (or their delegate) who gave the client-specific order, follow organizational/employer policies and processes, take action as needed, and document in the client record, when:
  - a. The ordered activity may no longer be appropriate because the client's condition, needs or wishes have changed (e.g., to 'hold' the order),
  - b. They are not able to carry out a client-specific order,
  - c. The client-specific order does not appear to consider a client's individual characteristics, values/beliefs, and preferences,
  - d. The client-specific order does not appear to reflect current evidence or be in the best interest of the client,

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<sup>1</sup> "Reasonable" refers to the common understanding that licensees of BCCNM would have as to what is appropriate in the situation.

- e. They change or cancel a client-specific order for activities that are within their autonomous scope of practice, or
  - f. The safeguards and resources are not available to manage the outcomes of performing the activity, including reasonably foreseeable unintended outcomes.
11. Licensed practical nurses follow the standards for *Acting within Autonomous Scope of Practice* when they change or cancel a client-specific order that is within their autonomous scope of practice and individual competence.
12. Licensed practical nurses are responsible and accountable for any changes or cancellations they make to a client-specific order that is within their autonomous scope of practice and individual competence.
13. Licensed practical nurses obtain a client-specific order to perform an activity or provide care or a service that is within their autonomous scope of practice when:
  - a. It is required by organizational/employer policies, processes, or restrictions,
  - b. There are insufficient organizational/employer supports, processes and resources in place (such as **decision support tools** or clinical practice documents) to enable the nurse to meet BCCNM standards, limits, or conditions related to the activity, care or service, or
  - c. The licensed practical nurse is competent to perform the activity or provide the care or service but does not have the individual competence to make a nursing diagnosis or carry out an assessment to determine whether the client would benefit from the activity, care, or service.
14. Licensed practical nurses only act with a client-specific order from a health professional who is not identified in the *Nurses and Midwives Regulation* as allowed to give a client-specific order to authorize a licensed practical nurse to perform a restricted activity, when:
  - a. The activity is within the licensed practical nurse's autonomous scope of practice,
  - b. The licensed practical nurse is able to meet BCCNM standards, limits, or conditions related to the activity,
  - c. The activity is within the licensed practical nurse's individual competence, and
  - d. Organizational/employer policies, and processes exist that:
    - i. clarify the accountability and responsibility of the licensed practical nurse and the health professional giving the order, and
    - ii. outline the requirements for the health professional giving the order to complete an assessment and to ensure that the ordered activity is in the best interest of the client.

## BCCNM limits and conditions for licensed practical nurses: Acting under client-specific orders

Activity	BCCNM Limits and Conditions for Licensed Practical Nurses: Acting under Client-specific Orders
1. Use of restraints	a. Licensed practical nurses apply restraints only under a client-specific order.
2. Take an electrocardiogram (ECG)	a. Licensed practical nurses take electrocardiograms (ECGs): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. After successfully completing additional education</li> <li>ii. When a health care professional authorized to read the ECG is immediately available</li> </ol> b. Licensed practical nurses are not responsible for reading or interpreting ECG results.
3. Procedures on tissue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform wound care except conservative sharps wound debridement</li> </ul>	a. Licensed practical nurses act under a client-specific order to apply compression dressings, provide negative pressure wound therapy (vacuum assisted closure (VAC), or carry out maggot debridement therapy: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. If a wound care treatment plan is in place</li> <li>ii. After successfully completing additional education</li> <li>iii. By following decision support tools</li> </ol> b. Licensed practical nurses <b>do not</b> carry out any form of sharps debridement including conservative sharps wound debridement (CSWD).
4. Procedures on tissue Administer a substance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peritoneal dialysis by irrigation</li> </ul>	a. Licensed practical nurses act under a client-specific order to carry out peritoneal dialysis: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. For clients with stable or predictable states of health</li> </ol> b. After successfully completing additional education
5. Venipunctures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect blood sample or blood donation</li> </ul>	a. Licensed practical nurses act under a client-specific order and perform phlebotomy: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. To collect blood samples from clients 14 years of age and older</li> <li>ii. After successfully completing additional education</li> <li>iii. By following decision support tools</li> </ol> b. By using a peripheral evacuated system
6. Venipuncture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish intravenous (IV) access</li> </ul>	a. Licensed practical nurses act under a client-specific order to establish intravenous (IV) access: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. After successfully attaining competence as part of an entry-level practical nursing program, OR</li> <li>ii. After successfully completing additional education</li> </ol>

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	b. Licensed practical nurses establish IV access using a short peripheral device
7. Apply a cast for a fracture of a bone	1. Licensed practical nurses apply casts for a fracture of a bone: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Under a client-specific order only from a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner</li> </ol> b. After successfully completing additional education
8. Care of clients under anesthesia and sedation	a. Licensed practical nurses work in a <b>team nursing approach</b> to provide care and monitor clients under: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. General anesthesia</li> <li>ii. Intrathecal anesthesia</li> <li>iii. Epidural anesthesia</li> <li>iv. Procedural sedation</li> </ol>
9. Administer a substance by inhalation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not administer nitrous oxide</li> <li>• Do not monitor clients taking nitrous oxide</li> <li>• Do not administer substances for purposes of anesthesia or procedural sedation</li> </ul>	a. Licensed practical nurses <i>do not</i> : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Administer nitrous oxide</li> <li>ii. Monitor clients taking nitrous oxide</li> <li>iii. Administer inhaled substances for purposes of anaesthesia or procedural (conscious) sedation</li> </ol>
10. Administer a substance by mechanical ventilation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care of clients requiring mechanical ventilation</li> <li>• Care of clients who use continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) or bi-level positive airway pressure (BPAP)</li> </ul>	a. Licensed practical nurses care for clients requiring mechanical ventilation: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. With stable or predictable states of health</li> <li>ii. After successfully completing additional education</li> </ol> b. Licensed practical nurses provide care to clients who use continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) or bi-level positive airway pressure (BPAP) after successfully completing additional education.
11. Administer a substance by irrigation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irrigate percutaneous tubes</li> </ul>	a. Licensed practical nurses act under a client-specific order and irrigate only those percutaneous tubes they are permitted to irrigate at entry-level.
12. Administer a substance by irrigation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not irrigate ostomies</li> </ul>	a. Licensed practical nurses <i>do not</i> irrigate ostomies.

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<p>13. Administer a substance by parenteral instillation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administer parenteral solutions</li> <li>• Change IV bags</li> </ul>	<p>c. Licensed practical nurses act under a client-specific order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Administer parenteral solutions to clients with stable or predictable states of health</li> <li>ii. Change IV bags infusing via peripheral access (not central venous access)</li> </ul>
<p>14. Do not access central venous access devices (CVAD) or central venous lines<sup>2</sup></p>	<p>a. Licensed practical nurses <i>do not</i> access central venous access devices or central venous lines</p>
<p>15. Administer a substance by parenteral instillation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care of clients receiving blood or blood products</li> <li>• Do not start transfusions of blood or blood products</li> </ul>	<p>a. Licensed practical nurses monitor clients receiving blood or blood products in a team nursing approach.</p> <p>b. Licensed practical nurses <i>do not</i> start transfusions of blood or blood products</p>
<p>16. Administer a substance by parenteral instillation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not administer radiopaque dyes by parenteral instillation</li> </ul>	<p>a. Licensed practical nurses <i>do not</i> administer radiopaque dyes via parenteral instillation.</p>
<p>17. Therapeutic diets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care of clients receiving parenteral nutrition</li> <li>• Do not start or monitor parenteral nutrition</li> </ul>	<p>a. Licensed practical nurses provide care to clients receiving parenteral nutrition in a team nursing approach</p> <p>b. Licensed practical nurses <i>do not</i> start or monitor parenteral nutrition</p>
<p>18. Insertion into the external ear canal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not insert a curette or other instrument into the external ear canal</li> </ul>	<p>a. Licensed practical nurses <i>do not</i> insert a curette or other instrument into the external ear canal to remove:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Foreign objects</li> <li>ii. Earwax</li> </ul>
<p>19. Insertion beyond the point in the nasal passages where they normally narrow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suction nasal passages beyond the point where they normally narrow</li> </ul>	<p>a. Licensed practical nurses act under a client-specific order to suction the nasal passages beyond the point where they normally narrow after successfully completing additional education.</p> <p>b. Licensed practical nurses <i>do not</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Insert nasogastric (NG) tubes</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> This may also be referred to as a central venous device (CVD) or central venous catheter (CVC).

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not insert nasogastric (NG) or orogastric tubes (OG)</li> <li>Do not carry out nasopharyngeal washes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. Insert orogastric (OG) tubes</li> <li>iii. Carry out nasopharyngeal washes</li> </ul>
<p>20. Insertion beyond the pharynx</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not insert laryngeal mask airways (LMAs)</li> </ul>	<p>a. Licensed practical nurses <i>do not</i> insert laryngeal mask airways (LMAs).</p>
<p>21. Insertion beyond the opening of the urethra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insert coude tip catheters</li> </ul>	<p>a. Licensed practical nurses act under a client-specific order to insert coude tip catheters after successfully completing additional education.</p>
<p>22. Insertion beyond the labia majora:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove vaginal packing</li> <li>Insert or remove pessaries</li> <li>Do not insert vaginal packing</li> <li>Do not carry out pelvic or vaginal examinations</li> <li>Do not perform cervical cancer screening</li> <li>Do not insert an instrument, substance or medication into or beyond the cervix</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Licensed practical nurses act under a client-specific order to remove vaginal packing after successfully completing additional education.</li> <li>b. Licensed practical nurses act under a client-specific order to insert or remove pessaries after successfully completing additional education.</li> <li>c. Licensed practical nurses <i>do not</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Insert vaginal packing</li> <li>ii. Carry out pelvic or vaginal examinations</li> <li>iii. Perform cervical cancer screening</li> <li>iv. Insert an instrument, substance or medication into or beyond the cervix</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>23. Insertion beyond the anal verge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insert tubes into the rectum</li> <li>Do not insert or advance scopes for rectal/bowel examination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Licensed practical nurses act under a client-specific order to insert tubes into the rectum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. After successfully completing additional education</li> <li>ii. By following decision support tools</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Licensed practical nurses <i>do not</i> insert or advance scopes for rectal/bowel examinations.</li> </ul>
<p>24. Insertion into an artificial opening into the body</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Care of clients with tracheostomies</li> </ul>	<p>a. Licensed practical nurses provide tracheostomy care to clients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. With well-established tracheostomies</li> <li>ii. After successfully completing additional education</li> </ul>
<p>25. Insertion into an artificial opening into the body:</p>	<p>a. Licensed practical nurses act under a client-specific order to carry out digital examination of colostomies for clients:</p>

Activity	BCCNM Limits and Conditions for Licensed Practical Nurses: Acting under Client-specific Orders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital examination of colostomies</li> <li>• Insert Suprapubic catheters</li> <li>• Insert Gastrostomy tubes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. With well-established stomas</li> <li>ii. After successfully completing additional education</li> <li>b. Licensed practical nurses act under a client-specific order to insert suprapubic catheters and gastrostomy tubes for clients:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. With well-established stomas</li> <li>ii. After successfully completing additional education</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>26. Hazardous energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not perform fetal heart monitoring</li> </ul>	<p>a. Licensed practical nurses <i>do not</i> carry out fetal heart monitoring using an intermittent Doppler, or any related activities including palpation and auscultation of the fetal heart.</p>
<p>27. Hazardous energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not apply electricity to destroy tissue or affect the heart or nervous system (except AED)</li> </ul>	<p>a. Licensed practical nurses <i>do not</i> apply electricity to destroy tissue or affect the heart or nervous system except automated external defibrillators (AEDs)</p>
<p>28. Hazardous energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not apply laser that cuts or destroys tissue</li> </ul>	<p>a. Licensed practical nurses <i>do not</i> apply laser that cuts or destroys tissue.</p>
<p>29. Administer a Schedule I, IA or II drug</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administer intravenous (IV) medications</li> </ul> <p>(<a href="#">Drug Schedules Regulation</a>)</p>	<p>a. Licensed practical nurses act under a client-specific order to administer IV medications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. After successfully attaining competence as part of an entry-level practical nursing program, OR</li> <li>ii. After successfully completing additional education</li> </ul> <p>b. Licensed practical nurses change IV bags containing potassium chloride (KCL) infusing via peripheral access (not central venous access), when the IV bag has been compounded commercially or by a pharmacy</p>
<p>30. Administer a Schedule I, IA or II drug</p> <p>Administer a substance by inhalation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not administer medications or substances by these routes or these purposes</li> </ul>	<p>a. Licensed practical nurses <i>do not</i> administer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. IV push medications</li> <li>ii. IV medications through a central venous access device</li> <li>iii. Intrathecal medications</li> <li>iv. Intra-osseous medications</li> <li>v. Medications into epidural spaces</li> <li>vi. Medications into perineural spaces</li> <li>vii. Inhaled substances or medications for purposes of anaesthesia or procedural sedation</li> </ul>

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<p>31. Compound, dispense, administer a Schedule I, IA or II drug</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treat clients with known asthma who are in respiratory distress</li> </ul> <p>(Drug Schedules Regulation)</p>	<p>a. Licensed practical nurses treat respiratory distress in a known asthmatic:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In a <b>team approach</b></li> <li>Under a client-specific order</li> </ol>
<p>32. Compound, dispense, administer a Schedule II drug to treat a disease or disorder</p> <p>(Drug Schedules Regulation)</p>	<p>a. Licensed practical nurses compound, dispense or administer Schedule II drugs to treat a disease or disorder under a client-specific order.</p>
<p>33. Allergies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not conduct challenge testing or desensitizing treatments for allergies</li> </ul>	<p>a. Licensed practical nurses <i>do not</i> administer allergy challenge testing or desensitization treatments.</p>
<p>34. Medical aesthetics<sup>3</sup></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Licensed practical nurses successfully complete additional education before providing medical aesthetic procedures.</li> <li>Licensed practical nurses administering injectable drugs or substances or implantable devices for medical aesthetic purposes only do so:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under a client-specific order, and</li> <li>when the ordering health professional, or another health professional who has assumed responsibility for the care of the client, is present within the facility when the procedure is being performed and immediately available for consultation.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

<sup>3</sup> “Medical aesthetics” refers to elective non-surgical outpatient clinical procedures that include the performance of a restricted activity (activities listed in sections 29-37 of the *Nurses and Midwives Regulation*) and are primarily intended to alter or restore a person’s appearance.

## BCCNM limits and conditions for licensed practical nurses: Specific practice settings

Practice Setting	BCCNM Limits and Conditions for Licensed Practical Nurses Specific Practice Settings
1. Ambulatory Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Licensed practical nurses working in ambulatory care clinics or offices where surgical procedures are performed:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Require a unit orientation that is consistent with LPN entry-level competencies</li> <li>ii. Assist with surgical procedures:                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o After successfully completing additional education</li> <li>o When an authorized health professional is immediately available</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Licensed practical nurses <i>do not</i> administer:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. IV push medications</li> <li>ii. IV medications through a central venous access device (CVAD), or a central venous line</li> <li>iii. Intrathecal medications</li> <li>iv. Intra-osseous medications</li> <li>v. Medications into epidural spaces</li> <li>vi. Medications into perineural spaces</li> <li>vii. Inhaled substances or medications for purposes of anaesthesia or procedural (conscious) sedation</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. Licensed practical nurses work in a team nursing approach to provide care and monitor clients under:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. General anesthesia</li> <li>ii. Intrathecal anesthesia</li> <li>iii. Epidural anesthesia</li> <li>iv. Procedural sedation</li> </ul> </li> <li>d. Licensed practical nurses work in a team nursing approach to care for clients recovering from epidural anesthesia after successfully completing additional education.</li> </ul>
2. Antenatal Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Licensed practical nurses working in antenatal clinics require a unit orientation consistent with LPN entry-level competencies.</li> <li>b. Licensed practical nurses provide antenatal care:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. To healthy clients with an uncomplicated pregnancy</li> <li>ii. In a team approach with medical practitioners, midwives, registered nurses and/or nurse practitioners</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3. Emergency Room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Licensed practical nurses working in emergency rooms require a unit orientation that is consistent with LPN entry-level competencies.</li> <li>b. Licensed practical nurses <i>do not</i> triage clients in emergency rooms (ERs).</li> </ul>

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	c. Licensed practical nurses work in a team nursing approach to provide care for clients with stable or predictable states of health.
4. Hemodialysis	<p>a. Licensed practical nurses working in hemodialysis settings carry out hemodialysis:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. For clients with stable or predictable states of health</li> <li>ii. After successfully completing <b>post-basic education</b> through an in-house program offered by a health authority affiliated with BC Renal</li> <li>iii. By following decision support tools established by a health authority affiliated with BC Renal</li> <li>iv. When a registered nurse is immediately available</li> <li>v. Using an arteriovenous (AV) fistula or AV graft.</li> </ol> <p>b. Licensed practical nurses working in hemodialysis settings manage, access and maintain central venous lines and central venous access devices (CVAD) used specifically for hemodialysis by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Changing dressings on central venous access lines specific to dialysis access only</li> <li>ii. Measuring visible central venous access lines specific to dialysis access only</li> <li>iii. Carrying out dialysis through a central venous access line specific to dialysis access only</li> </ol> <p>c. Licensed practical nurses working in hemodialysis settings administer solutions, substances and Schedule I, IA, II and III drugs (<a href="#">Drug Schedules Regulation</a>) by any route, including intravenous and IV push, as part of routine hemodialysis procedures.</p> <p>d. Licensed practical nurses working in hemodialysis settings <i>do not</i> administer:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Intrathecal medications</li> <li>ii. Intra-osseous medications</li> <li>iii. Medications into epidural spaces</li> <li>iv. Medications into perineural spaces</li> <li>v. Inhaled substances or medications for purposes of anaesthesia or procedural (conscious) sedation</li> </ol> <p>e. Licensed practical nurses working in hemodialysis settings monitor clients receiving blood or blood products in a team nursing approach.</p> <p>f. Licensed practical nurses working in hemodialysis settings <i>do not</i> start transfusions of blood or blood products.</p>

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5. Medical Aesthetics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Licensed practical nurses successfully complete additional education before providing medical aesthetic procedures.</li> <li>b. Licensed practical nurses administering injectable drugs or substances or implantable devices for medical aesthetic purposes only do so:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Under a client-specific order, and</li> <li>ii. When the ordering health professional, or another health professional who has assumed responsibility for the care of the client, is present within the facility when the procedure is being performed and immediately available for consultation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6. Mental Health and Substance Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Licensed practical nurses working in settings where substance use or a mental health disorder is the primary diagnosis require an orientation that is consistent with LPN entry-level competencies.</li> <li>b. Licensed practical nurses work in a team nursing approach to provide care for clients whose primary diagnosis is substance use or a mental health disorder after successfully completing additional education.</li> </ul>
7. Perioperative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Licensed practical nurses work in a scrub or circulating role in the operating room (OR):                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. After successfully completing formal post-basic education</li> <li>ii. When a registered nurse is immediately available</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Licensed practical nurses <i>do not</i> administer:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. IV push medications</li> <li>ii. IV medications through a central venous access device (CVAD), or a central venous line</li> <li>iii. Intrathecal medications</li> <li>iv. Intra-osseous medications</li> <li>v. Medications into epidural spaces</li> <li>vi. Medications into perineural spaces</li> <li>vii. Inhaled substances or medications for purposes of anaesthesia or procedural (conscious) sedation</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. Licensed practical nurses working in a perioperative setting work in a team nursing approach to provide care and monitor clients under:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. General anesthesia</li> <li>ii. Intrathecal anesthesia</li> <li>iii. Epidural anesthesia</li> <li>iv. Procedural sedation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
8. Postpartum Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Licensed practical nurses working in postpartum settings require a unit orientation consistent with LPN entry-level competencies that includes:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Infant resuscitation as part of a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) course for health professionals</li> <li>ii. The Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) modules 1-4 and 9</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Practice Setting	BCCNM Limits and Conditions for Licensed Practical Nurses Specific Practice Settings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii. Newborn and maternal assessment, including breastfeeding, consistent with the Perinatal Services British Columbia (PSBC) Newborn Clinical Pathway (<a href="#">PSBC Newborn Guideline 13: Newborn Nursing Care Pathway</a>) and the Postpartum Clinical Pathway (<a href="#">Perinatal Services BC: Perinatal Services BC Obstetrics Guideline 20 Postpartum Nursing Care Pathway</a>)</li> <li>b. Licensed practical nurses provide care for mothers and newborns:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. With stable or predictable states of health</li> <li>ii. When a registered nurse, nurse practitioner, midwife and/or medical practitioner is immediately available</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. Licensed practical nurses take heel pricks after successfully completing additional education.</li> </ul>

## Glossary

**Activities:** Refers to restricted activities or any other activity that is related to the care of clients that requires the professional knowledge, skills, ability and judgment of a nurse.

**Additional education:** Additional education is structured education (e.g., workshop, course, program of study) designed for the nurse to attain the competencies required to carry out a specific activity. Additional education:

- Builds on the entry-level competencies,
- Identifies the competencies expected of learners on completion of the education,
- Includes both theory and application to practice, and
- Includes an objective evaluation of learners' competencies on completion of the education.

**Advanced activities:** Activities that are within a nurse's scope of practice but require additional education, training and/or clinical experience that build on the foundational knowledge, skills, ability, and judgement attained during entry-level nursing education.

**Client:** Person receiving health services.

**Client-specific order:** An instruction or authorization given by a regulated health professional to provide care for a specific client, whether or not the care or service includes a restricted activity or a non-restricted activity.

**Competence:** The integration and application of current knowledge, skills, ability, and judgment required to perform ethically, safely and in accordance with all applicable ethics standards and practice standards.

**Competencies:** The knowledge, skills, ability, and judgment required to provide safe, competent, and ethical care within an individual's practice or in a designated role or setting.

**Decision support tools (DSTs):** Evidence-based documents used by nurses to support clinical judgment and decision-making by guiding the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of client-specific clinical problems.

**Formal post-basic education:** Structured education that builds on the entry-level LPN competencies. Formal post-basic education is delivered:

- by an educational institution that teaches a BCCNM-recognized practical nursing education program or equivalent, or
- through a collaborative arrangement between an employer that employs LPNs in post-basic areas and a school that teaches a BCCNM-recognized practical nursing education program or equivalent.

**Nursing diagnosis:** A clinical judgment made by a nurse of a client’s mental or physical condition to determine whether the condition can be prevented, improved, ameliorated or resolved by the performance of activities or provision of other care or services that is within the nurse’s scope of practice to provide without an assessment or diagnosis of the patient by another regulated health professional.

**Restricted Activity:** An activity that is performed in the course of providing a health service and is prescribed by the regulations under the *Health Professions and Occupations Act* as a restricted activity.

**Team approach:** When the care needs of a client include activities that are outside LPN scope of practice or the individual competencies of the LPN, the LPN seeks out other members of the health care team to jointly review the client’s care needs and determine how the care needs will be met between them. Where relevant, the registered nurse or registered psychiatric nurse may be the most appropriate team member for the LPN to seek consultation and collaboration with regarding client care needs.

**Team nursing approach:** When the nursing care needs of a client include activities that are outside LPN scope of practice or the individual competencies of the LPN, the LPN seeks out the registered nurse or registered psychiatric nurse on the health care team to jointly review the client’s care needs and determine how the care needs will be met between them.

## Revision history

Version #	Approved by board	Bylaw in-force	Description
1.0	March 1, 2026	April 1, 2026	Initial publication

Effective April 1, 2026, this practice standard, and any amendments to it, is made a bylaw under the authority of the *Health Professions and Occupations Act, B.C.*

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