

Regulated Health Professions Act & “new” Licensed Practical Nurse Regulations

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is the LPN Act and Regulations changing?

Health profession legislation in PEI presents some unique challenges. The small number of health professionals in PEI means that establishing self-regulating organizations for each health professional has not been feasible. Additionally, preparing and maintaining stand-alone legislation for every regulated health profession has proven to be impractical. The government of PEI's response to these challenges was to invite stakeholders to consult on new umbrella health profession legislation that had been recommended and implemented in a number of jurisdictions across Canada. The proposed legislation would;

- Provide for the regulation of health professions designated by regulation;
- Allow health professions to continue to be self-regulating;
- Continue to place the interests of clients and the public at the centre of the regulatory process

The **Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA)** was proclaimed in PEI, in December, 2013.

The features of the proposed legislation include:

- One umbrella statute with consistent legislative provisions for governance, registration, complaints, discipline, appeals, public representation, regulation and by-law making power that will be applicable to all designated health professions;
- Flexible administrative, complaint and discipline processes;
- Non-exclusive scopes of practice for designated health professions;
- Regulating only those activities that pose a threat or risk of harm to clients;
- Specific regulations for each designated health profession, which will include scope of practice, standards of practice, qualification standards, use of title, permitted reserved activities and other profession-specific matters;

- The continued existence of profession specific Colleges to provide governance and administration of regulated health professions.

When will the new Licensed Practical Nurse Regulation take effect?

In March 2018, the proposed Licensed Practical Nurse Regulation was approved by the Provincial government with an effective date of April 1, 2018.

Why is it necessary to change the name of the Prince Edward Island Licensed Practical Nurses Registration Board(PEILPNRB)?

The RHPA sets out a “College” model of regulation. The term “College” is not to be confused with educational facilities that educate new health professionals, but rather refer to the Regulatory College established for a regulated health profession. The Act provides that an existing Regulatory Body may be continued under the RHPA. This means that the Prince Edward Island Licensed Practical Nurses Registration Board (PEILPNRB) has been continued as the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Prince Edward Island (CLPNPEI) under the Regulated Health Professions Act. The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Prince Edward Island will join our colleagues in Nova Scotia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, British Columbia, and Newfoundland & Labrador in a College model of Regulation.

I’ve heard that the RHPA authorizes LPNs to perform certain health care activities defined as “reserved activities.” Does that mean these activities will be “reserved” for the LPN profession exclusively, and no other profession will be authorized to perform them?

No. If more than one health profession has the competence to perform an activity defined in the RHPA as a reserved activity, the Government of Prince Edward Island may authorize more than one health profession to perform it.

The RHPA contains a new approach to regulating certain health care activities. These “**reserved activities**” are activities that could pose significant risk or possible harm to the public if performed by someone without the necessary competence and skill. The Prince Edward Island Licensed Practical Nurses Registration Board (PEILPNRB) was responsible for collaborating with Government to determine which reserved acts Prince Edward Island LPNs should be authorized to perform. This collaboration was based on information about LPN education, current practice, competencies and skills. The Government of Prince Edward Island, ultimately, decided which reserved activities are authorized for the profession.

Where can I find out more about the reserved activities?

The reserved activities are identified in Section 86 of the RHPA and Sections 18 (1) (2) of the Licensed Practical Nurse Regulations. Both documents may be found on the CLPNPEI website at www.clpnpei.ca

What are some examples of things that will remain the same?

- The RHPA sets out a plan which allows for the continuation of an existing Regulatory Body into the Regulatory College for a regulated health profession. This means that bylaws, officers, staff, membership and licenses of the PEILPNRB may be continued under the CLPNPEI. This means that the PEILPNRB license that was issued to active practicing LPNs for the **April 1 2018 – March 31, 2019 licensing year** is valid and recognized by the CLPNPEI. Any applicants applying for registration renewal or new applicants to PEI after April 1, 2018 will be applying to the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of PEI and issued a certificate of registration authorizing them to practice practical nursing in PEI.
- The Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics and Entry to Practice Competencies documents for the profession will stay the same.
- The mandate of the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of PEI will remain the same as the Mandate of the PEILPNRB, to carry out its objects and govern its members in a manner that serves and protects the public interest

What are some examples of things that will change?

- Some terminology will change. The previous LPN Act and Regulations referred to individuals licensed with the PEILPNRB as **registrants**. Registrants meeting the established requirements were then issued **licenses**. Going forward, all individuals applying to the CLPNPEI and meeting the established requirements for registration will be referred to as **members** and be provided with a **certificate of registration** authorizing them to practice practical nursing in PEI.
- The deadline for Registration renewal will change. Applications and fees required for registration renewal were to be provided to the PEILPNRB office no later than March 15 each year. Section 22 of the RHPA outlines that members who apply to the Registrar for the renewal of their registration must do so at least 30 days before its expiry. Going forward the **deadline for Registration renewal will March 1 of every year.**

Will this transition affect my annual registration renewal fee?

No. At this time there are no anticipated increases planned for the annual registration renewal fee.

How will changes be communicated?

If you are a licensed practical nurse in Prince Edward Island, keeping your personal contact information up-to-date with the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Prince Edward Island (CLPNPEI) will ensure you receive important information about your profession, your practice and your certificate of registration.

The CLPNPEI's primary means of communicating with its members is by email. Important information may also be sent to you by mail or communicated over the phone. For this reason, it is important for you to keep all of your contact information up-to-date in your CLPNPEI registration profile, at all times.

The CLPNPEI may contact you with important information at any time throughout the year, so be sure to update your personal contact information as soon as it changes, not just during the registration renewal window. As per the declaration signed on the annual registration renewal form, members have an obligation to notify the CLPNPEI when their personal contact information changes.

To update your contact information, or to check its accuracy, please contact staff at the CLPNPEI office.

It is equally important for you to check your junk email folder on a regular basis to ensure that email communication from the CLPNPEI has not been missed, and to refrain from actively blocking or unsubscribing from the CLPNPEI email communications. You will not be able to stay informed of requirements and deadlines that affect your practice and your certificate of registration if you do not take steps to ensure you are receiving the CLPNPEI's emails.

If you believe you may have missed receiving an email, letter or other notice from the CLPNPEI that was expected, for whatever reason, it is your responsibility to follow-up with the CLPNPEI.

The CLPNPEI is granted the authority through the RHPA to issue **practice directives** to its members. Practice directives will provide practical nurses, employers, and the general public with information regarding the professional expectations of practical nurses in Prince Edward Island. All practical nurses – including, graduate practical nurses, and licensed practical nurses – are expected to review, understand and comply with the information disseminated in practice directives. All Regulatory documents will be available on the CLPNPEI website.

Where can I find the most up to date information about the profession?

Please visit our website www.clpnpei.ca