

CLPNPEI Practice Memo

Cost of Self- Regulation

Licensed Practical Nurses are self-regulating health professionals which means the provincial government has granted the profession the privilege and responsibility to regulate themselves. In Prince Edward Island, LPNs, and many other health professionals, are regulated under the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA). Through the RHPA and Licensed Practical Nurse Regulations, the government established the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Prince Edward Island (CLPNPEI) as the regulatory authority for LPNs in the province. The College has the explicit mandate to carry out its work and govern its members in a manner that serves and protects the public interest.

Regulatory authorities may advocate on issues in the public interest but not on behalf of the profession or on the behalf of individual LPNs. Advocacy work benefitting the professionals as a whole or an individual LPN is commonly carried out by associations or unions.

When there is a conflict between public interest and professional self-interest, regulatory bodies are mandated to support the public interest. It is important to understand the privilege of self-regulation could be suspended by government if the regulatory authority fails to meet its mandate of carrying out its work in a manner that serves and protects the public interest.

How does the CLPNPEI regulate its members to ensure the public receives safe, competent and ethical care?

The CLPNPEI engages in core regulatory work to support the legislated mandate of governing its members in a manner that serves and protects the public interest. Core regulatory work includes, but is not limited to the following examples:

- Approving practical nursing education programs in the province.
- Establishing and maintaining registration processes that assess applications for registration and ensures that those who practice as an LPN in Prince Edward Island are qualified.
- Developing and maintaining the official LPN registry, including the Member Portal and Public Register of members.
- Developing, establishing, maintaining, monitoring and enforcing standards of practice to enhance the quality of practice by its members.
- Developing, establishing, maintaining and monitoring compliance with and enforcing standards respecting continuing education.
- Developing and maintaining the provincial examination to assess knowledge and understanding of the jurisprudence, ethical standards and standards of practice.
- Contributing to the development, maintenance and administration of the Canadian Practical Nurses Registration Examination (CPNRE).

- Investigating complaints about the conduct, competence, or capacity of practical nurses and, when necessary, taking action to ensure the public interest is protected.
- Establishing and monitoring competency requirements.
- Creating and maintaining communication channels.
- Providing professional practice consultation with key stakeholders.
- Collaborating in inter-professional initiatives with other Regulatory Colleges.

Cost of Self-Regulation

One of the biggest benefits of self-regulation is the profession keeps control of its standards - including determining the nature and scope of professional knowledge and skills as well as professional conduct standards. And it comes at a cost.

Self-regulation imposes a responsibility on all members of the profession. Each LPN accepts this responsibility and demonstrates individual self-regulation by being accountable for their own practice and decision-making.

The privilege of self-regulation allows LPNs title protection and prevents unauthorized individuals from using the LPN designation. The costs include monitoring and dealing with those who do not take personal responsibility for their actions.

LPNs pay for the privilege of self-regulation annually through their registration fees. The number of current members and projected members combined with the annual cost of regulatory activities (including the costs of enforcement) contributes to the calculation of registration fees.

Fees collected annually are used to meet the expenses incurred to fulfill the legislated mandate to protect the public interest.

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¹ *Self-Regulation Information Sheet*. Nova Scotia: Nova Scotia College of Nurses, February 2020.
https://cdn1.nscn.ca/sites/default/files/documents/resources/SelfRegulation_INFO_SHEET.pdf