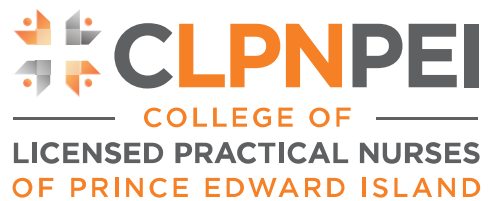


# LPN Continuing Competency Program

## Instruction Guide



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## Introduction

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Prince Edward Island (CLPNPEI, or the College) is the regulatory body for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) in Prince Edward Island. The College's objective is to protect the public by promoting the provision of safe, competent, ethical, and compassionate nursing care by LPNs. The College meets its legislative mandate by:

- Establishing and enforcing requirements for entry into the profession;
- Maintaining an annual registration process, and;
- Developing Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics, and a Continuing Competence Program for its members.

Continuing competence is the career-long learning through adapting and refining the application of knowledge, skill, and judgment required to practice safely and ethically in a designated role and setting, as a nurse increases their professional capacity moving from novice to expert.

## Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics Related to Continuing Competence Program

LPNs are accountable for their own practice and actions at all times and have a professional obligation to attain and maintain competence relevant to their practice area(s). Competence is acquired and maintained and through lifelong learning, the integration of learning into nursing practice and reflective practice. Completion of the competence program is a requirement of every LPN, in every practice context, every year.

This obligation is inherent in both CLPNPEI Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics:

### Standards of Practice

#### **Standard 1 - Professional Accountability and Responsibility**

1.2 LPNs self-assess their professional practice and competence and participate in continuous learning.

### Code of Ethics

#### **Principle 1: Responsibility to the Public**

1.1 LPNs maintain standards of practice, professional competence and conduct.

#### **Principle 5: Responsibility to Self**

5.6 LPNs engage in opportunities for career-long learning to continuously develop the competencies required to meet the ethical and regulatory requirements of the profession.

## Purpose of this Document

These guidelines can assist you to meet your obligation to participate in the CCP. Contact the College at 1-902-566-1512 or by email [info@clpnpei.ca](mailto:info@clpnpei.ca) if you have any questions or visit the College website at [www.clpnpei.ca](http://www.clpnpei.ca)



## About the Continuing Competence Program

The Continuing Competence Program (CCP, or the Program), is a formal process of assessing the ongoing knowledge, skills, and judgment of LPNs. It is a quality assurance mechanism implemented to ensure LPNs are competent in their practice (Vernon, Chiarella and Papps, 2013). The program contributes to the College's objective to protect the public interest. Some key things to keep in mind;

- CCP is a mandatory component of annual registration.
- Every LPN who holds a practical nursing certificate of registration, whether the individual is employed as an LPN or not, is expected to participate in, or be compliant with the program requirements every year.
- LPNs not compliant with the program may be ineligible for a certificate of registration to practice practical nursing in Prince Edward Island.
- Compliance is determined through a review of the annual learning plan

The Continuing Competence Program has four components:

1. Self-Assessment
2. Learning Plan
3. Reflective Practice
4. Audit

### STEP 1: The Annual Self-Assessment of Individual Competence (February)

The point of the self-assessment is to give you an opportunity each new registration year to assess your practice in relation to the practice expectations outlined in [Standards of Practice for Licensed Practical Nurses in Canada](#) and [Code of Ethics for LPNs in Canada](#)

Your self-assessment is a reflection of your individual nursing practice, knowledge and competence.

You may use the College's [Self-Assessment Tool](#) or an employer's self-assessment tool instead of the CLPNPEI tool. There is no need to duplicate work.

#### Before you start your self-assessment

- Review your Standards of Practice and the Code of Ethics. They can be viewed (or printed) online at <https://clpnpei.ca/scope-of-practice/>
- The Self-Assessment Tool is designed to be used every year for five years so you can track your progress; however a fresh copy can be printed from the College's website at the link below [Self-Assessment Tool](#)

#### Starting your self-assessment

- Think about your practice as it relates to each indicator and rate yourself using the rating system.



- If possible, compare your current score against your previous score and note the reasons for the changes in your year-to-year score (i.e. your score has improved because you have gained additional knowledge or your score has lowered because you moved to a new practice context).
- Make comments on your strengths and opportunities for development as it relates to each group of standards.

### **When you finish your self-assessment**

- Think about overall assessment. Note the areas where you excel and areas where you may need improvement.

## **STEP 2: Develop and Implement a Learning Plan (March-November)**

The point of the learning plan is to give you an opportunity to identify areas where you may want or need additional information so you may remain competent in your practice setting. The learning plan contains personalized strategies designed to help you set, meet and evaluate your professional development or learning goals.

The learning plan has four components;

- Learning Goals
- Objectives
- Timelines
- Reflective Practice (impact on practice and client outcomes)

### **Starting Your Learning Plan**

The planning process can help you investigate methods of acquiring the skills, knowledge, and/or experience which is required for your role, or the role you aspire to have. Learning plans can be based on the completion of formal education programs or from informal ways such as:

- staff meetings;
- consultations with other care providers such as a nurse practitioner, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, or pharmacist;
- mentoring learners or new graduates/employees; or,
- participating in a unit-based project, case preparation or a College committee or CLPNPEI Council.

### **Developing Your Learning Plan**

#### **1. Identify learning goals (March)**

- Identify at least two things you would like to learn over the upcoming registration year. These are your learning goals.
- Your goals should be realistic and be specific to your practice environment and practical nursing (See: Some Learning Goals Do Not Meet CCP Requirements on page 6).

#### **2. Identify the rationale for your learning goals (March)**

- Explain why you want to meet this particular goal.
- Connect the rationale to your practice.



3. Identify the objectives (March)
  - Objectives are the activities you will undertake to achieve this learning goal.
  - Throughout the year update your learning plan by listing specific learning interventions and activities as you complete them (March-November).
4. Indicate how your learning may improve your practice or positively impact client outcomes (March)
  - It is important for your learning to be for the purposes of improving client outcomes.
  - Knowing, or at least anticipating the overall impact of your learning will help you evaluate the effectiveness of your plan.

### Helpful Hints

- Keeping a record of professional activities can help you keep track of what you have completed.
- It is also important that you keep a summary of key learning points from each activity as this will be helpful at the end of the year when you are reflecting on the overall impact of your learning.
- There is a tracking sheet in the back of the Self-Assessment Tool.
- Click on the link to download a blank learning plan (includes a sample)
- <https://clpnpei.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Learning-Plan-Final-CLPNPEI.pdf>

### Some Learning Goals Do Not Meet CCP Requirements

It is important to note employer mandated education and/or review of knowledge (i.e. CPR, WHMIS, lifts and transfers, etc.) are not considered acceptable learning goals because they are not specific to practical nursing because they also apply to a variety of non-nurse care providers.

### STEP 3: Reflective Practice (December/January)

The point of reflective practice is to give you an opportunity to think about the overall impact of your learning. Reflective practice is a continual process where you analyze and evaluate your professional experiences to promote professional growth and gain insight (Durgahee, 1997). It is the most critical component of continuing competence because this is where you connect the impact of your learning directly to improvements in your practice or client outcomes.

#### Reflective Practice Framework

- Reflective practice is documented in the evaluation of your annual learning plan.
- There are a number of ways to document reflective practice. For your information, the College has provided the following framework to guide you:

**I have increased my competence in (whatever you identified as your learning goal) by (list the activities in your learning goal). As a result, (identify how your practice has improved). This means (outline how your clients are positively impacted by your learning).**



## Important to Know

- Reflective practice is the most important element of continuing competence because it is tied directly to improvements in your practice and client outcomes.
- You cannot reflect on or explain how your practice has been improved using learning goals which have yet to be implemented or accomplished (SEE: The Audit Process, pages 7 and 8).
- Compliance with the annual competence program requirements cannot be achieved by simply submitting lists of learning activities that do not include a reflective evaluation.
- Click the link to view the [reflective practice FAQ](#):

## STEP 4: The Audit Process

The **purpose** of the audit is to ensure LPNs are compliant with program requirements.

The audit helps the College meet its mandate to govern its members in the public interest.

The audit is required by the Licensed Practical Nurse Regulation, 2018, Section 16.

Most self-regulated professionals have a competence program which includes an audit.

### How the Audit Works

- Every year (beginning approximately June 2020), a computer program randomly selects a list of LPNs who are required to submit their learning documents to the College for review.
- LPNs selected for the audit are notified by email and provided with instructions regarding the process and the documents they are required to submit.
- Submission of documents is time sensitive and there are consequences of missing a submission deadline.
- Once documents are received by the College, a committee of practicing practical nurses reviews each one to determine if there is sufficient evidence of compliance with the program requirements.
- Compliance is achieved when learning goals or activities:
  - have been completed within the specific dates;
  - apply to practical nursing practice, and;
  - have a sufficient reflective practice evaluation (SEE: Reflective Practice, page 6).

### Outcomes of the Audit

- Typically, members are notified of the audit results within seven days of the committee meeting.
- There are three possible outcomes:
  1. Compliance with CCP can be determined and no further action required;
  2. Compliance cannot be fully determined and more information or clarity is required. Depending on the nature of what is required this may be done by phone or via regular/electronic mail, or;
  3. There is no indication of compliance. A provisional certificate of registration will be issued indicating that you have 90 days to submit new documents and complete additional learning. The provisional certificate of registration will expire on day 91 if compliance cannot be achieved. Your employer is notified of this.



## Audit Reminders

- The audit is about reviewing documents outlining learning activities which have been completed in the previous registration year.
- Learning activities falling outside the audit date range cannot be included in consideration of compliance.

## The College Can Help

- A number of supports are in place so every nurse can be successful in meeting the competence program requirements. Click the link to view all of the resources on the College website at <https://clpnpei.ca/continuing-competence/>
- However, LPNs who choose not to participate in the CCP program will eventually be ineligible to renew their certificates of registration as outlined in Section 25(1) of the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA) and Section 16(1)(2) of the Licensed Practical Nurse Regulations.
- Contact CLPNPEI staff at 902-566-1512 or send an e-mail to [info@clpnpei.ca](mailto:info@clpnpei.ca)





## References

Durgahee, T. (1997). Reflective Practice: Nursing ethics through story telling. *Nursing Ethics*, 4(2), 135-146.

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