

<b>CLPNPEI</b> <b>Reasonable Proficiency in English</b>		
	<b>Date Effective</b>	September, 2017
	<b>Last Revised</b>	November 23 2022
	<b>Review Due</b>	January 2024
	<b>Date Established</b>	September, 2017

## PURPOSE

This policy defines English language requirements for registration with the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Prince Edward Island (CLPNPEI).

## PREAMBLE

The CLPNPEI contributes to safe and competent nursing care for Islanders by regulating the practice of LPNs so as to ensure a high standard of practice and safeguard the welfare of the public with regard to services by Licensed Practical Nurses. It is recognized that a high degree of English language proficiency in reading, writing, listening and speaking is extremely important for providing safe nursing care; therefore, demonstrating English language proficiency is an important competency to substantiate prior to engaging in Licensed Practical Nursing practice.

## BACKGROUND

The Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA) Section 12 (2) describes eligibility criteria that an applicant must demonstrate in order to be registered in the register of a regulated health profession and be issued a Certificate of Registration. Section (12)(2)(b) requires that an applicant must have reasonable proficiency in written and spoken English in accordance with the regulations, unless otherwise provided in the regulations. The Regulated Health Professions Act General Regulations Section 1.1 specifies ways in which an applicant is considered to be reasonably proficient in English.

## POLICY STATEMENTS

Applicants must provide evidence of reasonable proficiency in English to ensure adequate communication skills.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Applicants applying for registration with the CLPNPEI must provide evidence of one or more of the following criteria to be considered reasonably proficient in English.

- a) Applicants who have completed both primary and secondary education in English.
- b) Applicants who are currently registered in another Canadian jurisdiction as a LPN (or RPN in Ontario) and have satisfied that jurisdiction's English language proficiency requirements.
- c) Applicants who have graduated within the past three (3) years from an entry level nursing education program, in which the language of instruction, including the language used in any practicum, was English.
- d) Applicants who have practiced practical nursing for a minimum of twenty-four months in a practice setting where English was the primary language used.

Applicants who do not meet the criteria above are required to provide evidence of English language proficiency by completing one of the following CLPNPEI Council approved English language tests and receiving the minimum result indicated:

- a) International Language Testing System (IELTS) (academic version)
  - I. Listening: no less than 7.0
  - II. Reading: no less than 6.5
  - III. Writing: no less than 6.5
  - IV. Speaking: no less than 7.0
- b) Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses (CELBAN)
  - I. Listening: no less than 9
  - II. Reading: no less than 8
  - III. Writing: no less than 7
  - IV. Speaking: no less than 8

Applicants cannot submit a combination of two (2) tests (e.g. IELTS and CELBAN), and cannot submit scores from one test date and scores from another test date to achieve an overall passing score.

Applicants are required to have test results sent directly from the testing center to the CLPNPEI. Original results brought in by the applicant and/or certified true copies from other jurisdictions may be deemed acceptable by the Registrar in extenuating circumstances.

Language benchmark test results are considered current for two (2) years from the date immediately preceding the application.

If any required or requested documentation regarding English language proficiency does not provide satisfactory evidence of proficiency, or the CLPNPEI cannot verify the authenticity of the documentation, the CLPNPEI may request English language benchmark testing. Applicants/members will be advised, in writing, of the reasons for the request.