

<b>CLPNPEI</b> <b>Reasonable Proficiency in English</b>		
	<b>Date Effective</b>	September, 2017
	<b>Last Revised</b>	September 18 2024
	<b>Review Due</b>	September 2027
	<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. Applicants may demonstrate language proficiency by achieving the required minimum cut scores in the four areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking of one of the language proficiency tests approved by the nursing regulator.

The applicant can achieve the required cut scores across two sittings if:

- the applicant sits the same test within 6 months.
- the applicant tested all four sections at the same time with the exception for tests that offer a one skill retake option; all scores in both sittings are not below more than one band score level from the required cut scores; and
- both sittings must have been completed within the last two (2) years.

If the applicant's test scores show significant fluctuations across the test sittings (i.e., more than two band scores), they should be carefully reviewed to ensure reliability and accuracy of the test scores.

	CELBAN	IELTS ACADEMIC	OET	PTE ACADEMIC
Reading	8	6.5	C+ (330)	66
Listening	9	7.0	B (350)	73
Writing	7	6.5	C+ (320)	68
Speaking	8	7.0	B (350)	75

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.

The language test results expire two (2) years from the date of the language testing.

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.