

# Code of Ethics for Licensed Practical Nurses

## 1 LPNs promote optimal health and well-being

- 1.1 **Provide care** for the health and well-being of the person, family, and community.
- 1.2 **Recognize and respect** the importance of diverse views of health and illness.
- 1.3 **Engage** in compassionate and non-judgmental interactions.
- 1.4 **Promote healing and recovery** through a trauma-informed approach.
- 1.5 **Support harm reduction** through choice and the promotion of safer practices.
- 1.6 **Identify and minimize risks** to clients, adhering to client safety principles and quality assurance measures.
- 1.7 **Cultivate** meaningful and supportive nurse-client relationships.

## 3 LPNs provide and advocate for client dignity, autonomy, and self-determination

- 3.1 **Respect a client's rights**, recognizing their diverse backgrounds, values, and beliefs.
- 3.2 **Recognize** how multiple aspects of an individual's social identity may result in discrimination or privilege.
- 3.3 **Assist, support, and respect** a client's informed decision-making, including when factors reduce the client's capacity to make decisions.
- 3.4 **Adhere to applicable laws and regulatory requirements** on capacity-assessment and substitute decision-making when the client is incapable of providing consent.
- 3.5 **Seek assent** from those who are unable to provide consent.
- 3.6 **Recognize a client's right to take reasonable risks**, which is essential to their dignity and overall quality of life.
- 3.7 **In the case of conscientious objection** to the provision of care, inform employer and respect assignment and client needs until a replacement is found.

## 5 LPNs maintain personal well-being

- 5.1 **Establish goals** and mechanisms to address anticipated or unexpected gaps in well-being.
- 5.2 **Self-reflect** and seek opportunities for ongoing personal and professional improvement.
- 5.3 **Engage in self-care**, including caring for one's psychological well-being.
- 5.4 **Reflect and take action** when one's ability to practice safely, competently, or ethically is at risk.
- 5.5 **Report** aspects of the practice environment that may affect one's well-being and one's ability to practice safely.

## 2 LPNs provide care that is physically, psychologically, and culturally safe

- 2.1 **Recognize** that social determinants of health influence a client's ability to achieve and maintain health.
- 2.2 **Advocate for the client** to receive fair and equitable access to health services and resources.
- 2.3 **Use evidence, knowledge, and professional judgement** to guide nursing decisions.
- 2.4 **Develop an understanding** of clients' evolving cultural and spiritual paths.
- 2.5 **Promote inclusion**, belonging, and environments that are free of racism and discrimination.
- 2.6 **Recognize** that the provision of health care is deeply affected by colonial thinking and practices.
- 2.7 **Learn** about and seek to address inequities in care faced by clients who are racialized, marginalized, or under-served.
- 2.8 **Seek out** and exchange knowledge with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples.
- 2.9 **Recognize one's roles** in responding to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People.
- 2.10 **Apply new knowledge**, technologies, and scientific advances to promote safety, client satisfaction and well-being.

## 4 LPNs develop therapeutic relationships while maintaining professional boundaries

- 4.1 **Understand** that the nurse-client relationship requires honesty, trust, integrity, respect, professional intimacy, and empathy.
- 4.2 **Accept** that maintaining professional boundaries is the LPN's responsibility.
- 4.3 **Consider** the potential impact of self-disclosure on the therapeutic relationship.
- 4.4 **Be informed** and understand the consequences of social media communications on one's relationship with clients, employers, and the nursing profession.
- 4.5 **Develop an understanding** of one's own social identity and act to minimize negative impact of personal values and assumptions on interactions and decisions.
- 4.6 **Challenge** one's own biases, privilege, and power within the practice environment.
- 4.7 **Reflect** on the clinical, practical, and ethical factors that form the basis of the termination of the therapeutic nurse-client relationship.

## 6 LPNs contribute to a healthy practice environment

- 6.1 **Collaborate** with clients, their families, and colleagues to promote health and well-being.
- 6.2 **Contribute** to an equitable practice environment that is free of discrimination, harassment, oppression, and bullying.
- 6.3 **Engage** in opportunities to discuss roles, responsibilities, and expertise of various health professions, including one's own.
- 6.4 **Advocate** for and manage time or human resources that will improve outcomes for clients and the health care team.
- 6.5 **Respond** to unsafe conditions and harmful behaviours in a timely manner.