



ANBLPN

Association of New Brunswick Licensed
Practical Nurses

AIAANB

L'Association des Infirmier(ère)s Auxiliaires
Autorisé(e)s du Nouveau-Brunswick

ANBLPN Position Statement:

Abandonment of Care

Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) are a central part of the health care team and they play an integral role in the delivery of safe, competent, compassionate and ethical nursing care. LPNs carry a great responsibility towards their clients and need to be aware of their therapeutic nurse-client relationship responsibilities.

Abandonment occurs when an LPN has engaged with the client or has accepted an assignment (thereby establishing the duty of care) and discontinues care without:

- Negotiating with the employer to develop a mutually acceptable plan for withdrawal of services;
- Arranging for appropriate alternative or replacement services;
- Allowing the employer a reasonable opportunity to provide alternative or replacement services;
- Ensuring adequate communication (verbal or written) and exchange of information with other care providers.

Abandonment applies to situations where the LPN has established a nurse-client relationship and as such, a duty of care with the client. Some examples of abandonment are:

- Leaving abruptly; in the absence of a reasonable explanation, without giving the employer or supervisor adequate notice for replacing the LPN
- Leaving without reporting to the oncoming shift
- Accepting a client care assignment and then leaving without notifying the appropriate person(s)

Abandonment does not apply in contexts where the LPN has not established a nurse-client relationship (i.e. an LPN who is not in the workplace and declines an overtime shift due to personal commitments). Additionally, if an LPN has finished their shift, they cannot be forced to do overtime. However, incidents such as extreme weather, are situational and it may not be possible for staff to come in for their shift (road closures, etc.) to relieve the previous shift making it impossible to arrange for appropriate replacement services. Therefore, the LPN cannot abandon care of their assignment as they cannot leave without reporting to the oncoming shift.

Abandonment is a violation of the ANBLPN [Standards of Practice](#) and if occurs, may be deemed an act of professional misconduct.

Standard 1: Professional Accountability and Responsibility

Licensed Practical Nurses are accountable and responsible for their practice and conduct to meet the standards of the profession and legislative requirements.

1.6. Adhere to established client safety principles and quality assurance measures to anticipate, identify, evaluate, and promote continuous improvement of safety culture.

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