

Use of Protected Title: Professional Practice Series



ANBLPN

Association of New Brunswick Licensed
Practical Nurses

AIAANB

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

Mission

The Association of New Brunswick Licensed Practical Nurses ensures the public of their commitment to safe, competent, and compassionate, ethical care by regulating and enhancing the profession of practical nursing.

Acknowledgements

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Document review committee: Anne Reid, LPN - Member at Large ANBLPN Board of Directors; Isabelle Roy, LPN Instructor CCNB; Joanne Graham, LPN Executive Director Registrar; Christie Ruff, LPN Practice Consultant.

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Use of Protected Title

Introduction

The Association of New Brunswick Licensed Practical Nurses (ANBLPN), or the Association, is the regulatory body for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) in New Brunswick. The Association's mandate is to protect the public by promoting the provision of safe, competent, ethical, and compassionate nursing care. The Association sets, monitors and enforces standards for entry into the profession, practical nursing education, registration and professional conduct. The Association creates LPN Standards of Practice, establishes a Code of Ethics, develops and implements a Continuing Competence Program, and publishes policies and interpretive documents to support the practice of practical nursing in New Brunswick.

Using this Document

Position statements are documents which reflect the view taken by the Association about a particular nursing or health care issue, trend or external stakeholder policy. This document was developed to help licensed practical nurses understand the Association's position on the use of a protected title. It is designed to be used in conjunction with the LPN Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics and all practice guidelines and position statements found on the Association website at <http://www.anblpn.ca>.

Purpose

This document will review the legislative and regulatory expectations regarding the use of a protected title. It is important for LPNs to be aware of their professional expectations and accountabilities when using a protected title.

Protected Title

A protected title is part of the contract between the government and the practical nursing profession. Through the Licensed Practical Nurses Act, the government grants the practical nursing profession exclusive rights to the graduate practical nurse, licensed practical nurse and practical nurse title and its designation. It is protected because only those who qualify as an LPN are granted the privilege to use these titles.

Public Safety

A protected title helps the Association achieve its mandate of public protection because only qualified practitioners may use it. The public can be assured practitioners using a protected title have met, and continue to meet annual licensure requirements indicating they can provide safe, competent, ethical and compassionate nursing services. Individuals who unlawfully use titles or designations relating to practical nursing are placing the public at risk and negatively impacting the practical nursing profession.

Use of Protected Title

Using a Protected Title

Only current, actively licensed members of the Association of New Brunswick Licensed Practical Nurses can use the title(s) Licensed Practical Nurse or Practical Nurse or the designations LPN or PN.

Graduate Practical Nurse

Newly graduated practical nurses (GPN) having completed all other elements of the registration and licensure process, may apply for a graduate practical nurse license. Once granted, they may use the title graduate practical nurse or designation GPN while waiting to write and receive results from the national registration exam.

Improper Use of a Protected Title

Individuals who use the title of Licensed Practical Nurse, or any deviation of, without maintaining current registration with ANBLPN may be subject to legal action per *Licensed Practical Nurses Act, 1977, c.60 amalgamated with the Act to Amend the Licensed Practical Nurses Act, 2014, c.8.* Former or retired members may not use the LPN designation if they do not hold active licensure.

Other Protected Titles

The title “nurse” is protected under the Nursing Act in New Brunswick. It may not be used by any person unless that person is a registered nurse, nurse practitioner, or a student in a program approved by the Nurses Association of New Brunswick (NANB).

Application to Practice

- ◆ Your professional signature includes your first initial, followed by your last name and designation or first name, followed by your last name and designation. For example: J. Smith, LPN or Jane Smith, LPN.
- ◆ Other credentials may be added after the LPN designation. For example, J. Smith, LPN, BA.
- ◆ Your professional introduction includes your name and title/designation. For example: “Good morning I am Jane (or Ms. /Mrs.) Smith. I am a Licensed Practical Nurse (or an LPN) and I will be caring for you today.”

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The Association of New Brunswick Licensed Practical Nurse

384 Smythe Street, Fredericton NB E3B 3E4

Phone: 1-506-453-0747 Toll Free: 1-800-942-0222

Fax: 1-506-459-0503 Email: practiceconsultant@npls.ca

Website: www.anblpn.ca