



ANBLPN

Association of New Brunswick Licensed
Practical Nurses

AIAANB

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

Fact Sheet: Protected Titles

Various regulated occupations are granted the ability to use protected titles while actively practicing in their profession. Protected titles can only be used by those professionals who have met the legislative and regulatory requirements set forth by their regulatory authority. The use of protected titles in nursing is a key component of public protection, as it is one way to ensure that the public is receiving nursing services by regulated health professionals.

What is a protected title?

A protected title acts as a legal contract between the government and the regulated profession. As per the [LPN Act](#) (2014), the government has granted the practical nursing profession exclusive rights to use the titles **Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)**, **Practical Nurse (PN)**, and **Graduate Practical Nurse (GPN)**. These are protected titles as only those who qualify as an LPN or GPN can be granted the privilege to use these titles.

Section 17(1) “No person who is not duly registered under this Act...shall directly or indirectly...allege or claim by any means whatsoever that he or she is a licensed practical nurse, or take or use any name, title, addition or description implying or calculated to lead people to infer that he or she is registered under this Act or is recognized by law as a licensed practical nurse” (LPN Act, 2014)

Why are certain titles protected in health care?

Protected titles help regulated health authorities achieve their mandate of public protection as only those who are qualified health professionals can use them. Protected titles gives assurance to the public that these health professionals have met, and continue to meet, the annual licensure requirements which holds them accountable to uphold their professional standards of practice to provide safe, competent, compassionate, and ethical care.

Any individual who unlawfully uses a protected title related to practical nursing is placing the public at risk and this has the potential to negatively impact the practical nursing profession. As per section 17(2) of the LPN Act, any individual who uses the protected title of LPN without maintaining current active registration with the Association of New Brunswick Licensed Practical Nurses (ANBLPN) may be subject to legal action.

Who can use the protected title of Licensed Practical Nurse?

Only current, actively registered members of the ANBLPN may use the title of Licensed Practical Nurse or Practical Nurse, or the designations LPN or PN.

Can students and/or former LPNs use the protected title of Licensed Practical Nurse?

No, only those who have met the annual licensure requirements and are actively registered with ANBLPN may use the protected title of LPN.

Graduate Practical Nurses (GPN) who have completed all the required student components may apply for a GPN license. Once granted, they may use the title of GPN while waiting to write and receive their

results from the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Exam (CPNRE). They may not use the title of LPN until they have received confirmation that they have been successful on the CPNRE.

Former LPNs (i.e., retirees, left the profession, etc.) also may not use the protected title of LPN as they are no longer actively registered with ANBLPN.

Why can't I use the protected title of 'nurse'?

Just as ANBLPN has a legislated Act that grants Licensed Practical Nurses the exclusive right to the titles of LPN, PN and GPN; the Nurses Association of New Brunswick (NANB) also has a legislated Act that grants Registered Nurses (RN) and Nurse Practitioners (NP) to use the protected title of nurse. The [Nurses Act](#) (2002), Section 11(1)(a) states that 'nurse' means "a person whose name is entered in the register" and 'nurse practitioner' means "a nurse whose name is endorsed in the register as a nurse practitioner".

This is further stipulated pursuant to Section 2(2) of the Nurses Act which states that the words 'nurse', 'duly qualified nurse', and 'registered nurse' can only be used by a person registered in the register of NANB. Therefore, the term nurse may not be used by any person unless that person is an RN or NP as approved by NANB.

Why doesn't ANBLPN advocate to allow LPNs to use the term nurse?

ANBLPN has discussed this topic numerous times over the years with NANB. However, ANBLPN does not have the power or authority to force a change in who can use the protected title of nurse as it is part of legislation through the Nurses Act. The only way that this can be changed is if NANB submits a request to government to open the *Nurses Act* to allow for changes to be made.

In a news release by NANB in January of 2021, NANB stated they "*recognize the Nurses Act is outdated and overdue to be modernized to adapt for today's health care realities. Conversations are ongoing with the Government of New Brunswick to commence this work which would include addressing the protected nurse title*".

ANBLPN continues to advocate for its members while working in collaboration with other healthcare professionals. The ANBLPN recognizes and values the roles of each profession. We support LPNs and RNs working together collaboratively in the interest of public protection in providing safe, competent, compassionate, and ethical care to their clients regardless of their title.

References:

Association of New Brunswick Licensed Practical Nurses (2014). *LPN Act, 2014*. Retrieved from: https://www.anblpn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/LPN_Act-2014.pdf

Nurses Association of New Brunswick (2002). *The Nurses Act, 2002*. Retrieved from: <http://nanb.nb.ca/media/resource/NANB-NursesAct-2008-Bilang.pdf>

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