



# ANBLPN

Association of New Brunswick Licensed  
Practical Nurses

# AIAANB

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

## Fact Sheet: Self-Regulation

Throughout Canada, nursing professionals have been granted the authority to self-regulate their own profession. The authority to self-regulate is granted by government through legislation. In New Brunswick, the [LPN Act](#) (2014) authorizes the Association of New Brunswick Licensed Practical Nurses (ANBLPN) to regulate Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN). By granting ANBLPN the authority to self-regulate the practical nursing profession, government entrusts ANBLPN to register, license, monitor, and discipline its own members to uphold the mandate of public protection (Schiller, 2014).

### What is self-regulation?

Self-regulation occurs when the profession itself can control its own admission standards and requirements and set the standards of practice for the profession. When a profession is deemed self-regulated, it serves as recognition that the profession itself is best qualified to define the practice and boundaries of its own profession. Essentially, the profession becomes accountable for the competence and conduct of its members and to ensure members are upholding the integrity of the profession through the eyes of the public (Schiller, 2014).

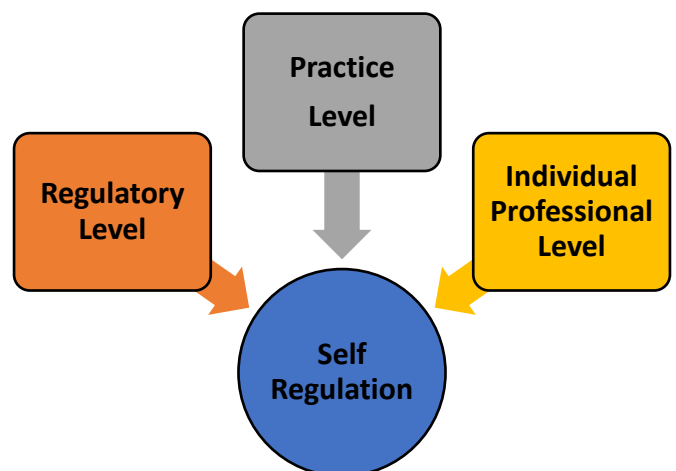
### What is the goal of self-regulation?

The goal of self-regulation is to ensure the delivery of safe, competent, compassionate, and ethical care by the members of the profession. Self-regulation is based on the principles that promote good practice, prevent poor practice, and intervene when practice has been deemed unacceptable.

### What role do LPNs have in self-regulation?

LPNs participate in self-regulation in a variety of ways:

- **Regulatory Level** – ANBLPN self-regulates the profession by developing and approving the practical nursing curriculum, and through the development of core regulatory documents such as the [Entry Level Competencies](#), [Standards of Practice](#), and [Code of Ethics](#). ANBLPN also sets the annual registration requirements for licensure.
- **Practice Level** – LPNs conduct their practice in accordance with the standards and processes set out by the regulatory authority (ANBLPN). Every LPN, in every practice setting, is obligated to conduct their practice according to these standards.
- **Individual Professional Level** – LPNs demonstrate self-regulation by taking accountability for their own practice and making decisions based on their scope of practice, Code of Ethics, Standards of Practice, the practice environment, and any employer or ANBLPN policies (NSCN, 2020).



## What is the importance of self-regulation?

When you are part of a self-regulating profession, it means that you are regulating your own practice in the best interest of the public. LPNs are expected to uphold the Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics as part of the self-regulation process and as such, they earn public trust and confidence in the profession.

While it is a privilege to be self-regulated, it is also a responsibility. The privilege to be self-regulated can be taken away by the same government that granted it. To maintain the privilege to self-regulate our own profession, LPNs must remain accountable to the public and government to meet the objectives of public safety. Participating in self-regulation is a professional responsibility for all LPNs and LPNs remain accountable to conduct their practice in the best interest of the client.

## What role does ANBLPN play in regulation?

ANBLPN is the professional regulatory authority for all LPNs in New Brunswick and exists to fulfill its mandate of public protection through the promotion of safe, competent, ethical, and compassionate care by its registrants. We exist to protect the public, preserve the integrity of the practical nursing profession, and to maintain the public and registrants trust in ANBLPNs ability to regulate the profession (NSCN, 2020).

All of the ANBLPNs objectives are grounded in the principles of self-regulation which includes:

- **Promote good practice** by setting the standards for practical nursing education, setting the registration and licensure requirements, and establishing professional practice standards, competence, and code of ethics.
- **Prevent poor practice** by providing LPNs with resources to maintain and further develop their competencies while helping LPNs identify issues that lead to poor practice and potential resolutions (i.e., practice guidelines, education modules, continuing competence program).
- **Intervene when practice is unacceptable** by investigating all complaints received regarding an LPNs practice and intervening as necessary. Employers, colleagues, registrants, and the public can make a formal complaint to ANBLPN if there is concern about an LPNs practice. ANBLPN is obligated by law to investigate all complaints to determine what, if any, actions need to be taken to ensure the safety of the public.

## References:

Nova Scotia College of Nursing. (2020). *Self-Regulation Information Sheet*. Retrieved from:

[https://cdn1.nscn.ca/sites/default/files/documents/resources/SelfRegulation\\_INFO\\_SHEET.pdf](https://cdn1.nscn.ca/sites/default/files/documents/resources/SelfRegulation_INFO_SHEET.pdf)

Schiller, Catharine, J. (2014). *Self-regulation of the nursing profession: Focus on four Canadian Provinces*. DOI: 10.5430/jnep.v5n1p95

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