

BCCNP

British Columbia
College of Nursing
Professionals



IMPORTANT

As of Sept. 4, 2018, the following nursing colleges merged together to become the British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals (BCCNP):

- College of Licensed Practical Nurses of British Columbia (CLPNBC)
- College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia (CRNBC)
- College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of British Columbia (CRPNBC)

Although the information in the document you are about to access reflects our most current information about this topic, you'll notice the content refers to the previous nursing college that published this document prior to Sept. 4, 2018.

We appreciate your patience while we work towards updating all of our documents to reflect our new name and brand.

Use of LPN Title

Practice standards set out requirements for specific aspects of LPN practice. They link with other BCCNP standards, policies and bylaws and all legislation relevant to LPN practice.

What is Use of Title for LPNs?

The Nurses (Licensed Practical) Regulation authorizes BCCNP registrants to use a reserved title to show that they have met BCCNP's registration requirements. BCCNP Bylaws establish classes of registrants. Only those individuals who have met BCCNP's requirements for registration can use a protected title¹. When BCCNP grants registration to LPNs, it entitles them to practise nursing in British Columbia (BC). BCCNP's public registry enables the public to verify an individual's registration status.

Employers provide the organizational supports and systems necessary for LPNs to meet BCCNP LPN Standards of Practice.

Protected Titles for Registrants

Protected Title	Abbreviation	Class
Authorized to practise nursing in BC		
1. Licensed Practical Nurse	LPN	practising registration
2. Provisional Licensed Practical Nurse	LPN (P)	provisional registration
3. Temporary Licensed Practical Nurse	LPN (T)	temporary registration
Not authorized to practise nursing in BC		
4. Non-practising Licensed Practical Nurse	non-practising LPN	non-practising registration

Principles

1. LPNs use their protected title in ways that comply with the [Health Professions Act](#), the [Nurses \(Licensed Practical\) Regulation](#), BCCNP Bylaws and BCCNP LPN Standards of Practice.

¹ LPNs may also use the title "nurse" or "practical nurse"; however, using "LPN" most accurately reflects your practice.

2. Registrants who are authorized to practise nursing use the abbreviation “LPN”, “LPN (P)” or “LPN (T)” when they document nursing care or provide nursing services.
3. No one other than a BCCNP registrant may use the protected titles or call himself/herself an LPN.
4. Registrants who are working outside the scope of an LPN cannot use any of the protected titles.
5. Registrants who hold non-practising registration may use the title “Non-practising Licensed Practical Nurse,” but they cannot practise nursing, even as a volunteer.
6. Former registrants who are now retired may refer to themselves as a “retired Licensed Practical Nurse” but cannot use any nursing title and cannot provide nursing services even as a volunteer.
7. Registrants cannot use their title to market products or services in a way that is false, inaccurate, misleading, unverifiable or contrary to the public interest.
8. Registrants cannot use their title to advertise or sell products or services unless the product or service relates directly to the profession.
9. Registrants cannot use their title to speak on behalf of BCCNP unless expressly authorized.
10. Self-employed LPNs follow the [BC Registry Services](#) process for seeking “Name Approval” if the name of their business includes the title “nurse.”

Applying the Principles to Practice

To manage the use of title in your nursing practice, consider the following:

- If you don’t renew your BCCNP practising registration by the end of the calendar year, you cannot work as a nurse or call yourself a “Licensed Practical Nurse”, “LPN” or a “Nurse”. When your registration lapses, your liability insurance also lapses.
- When documenting a client’s care, add your title right after your name (e.g., “Jane Doe, LPN”)
- Do not use your title if you are working in a position that does not require you to be an LPN, for example, if you are working as a health care assistant or an esthetician.
- If you want to use “nurse” in the name of your self-employed business, BC Registry Services requires you to request written permission from BCCNP.
- Help practical nursing students understand that they must identify themselves clearly as learners in the practice setting, for example, by adding “PN Student”

directly following their name on client records and by introducing themselves as a “PN Student”.

- If you are a non-practising or retired registrant, be aware you cannot practise as a nurse in any area of practice including clinical practice, administration, research or education.
- If you are only registered as a Licensed Practical Nurse, Practical Nurse or nurse outside BC, you cannot use those titles in BC.

More Information

Email BCCNP Nursing Practice Advisor

[BCCNP Bylaws](#)

[BCCNP LPN Practice Standards](#)

[BCCNP LPN Professional Standards](#)

[BCCNP LPN Scope of Practice Standards](#)

Other Resources

[A Resource for Self-Employed LPNs](#)

[*Health Professions Act*](#)

[Nurses \(Licensed Practical\) Regulation](#)

BCCNP Bylaws, Part IV: Registration

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