



Health Career Directory

Licensed Practical Nurse

Overview

Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) are professional nurses whose primary focus is to provide patient care. Licensed Practical Nurses work with registered nurses, nurse practitioners, physicians, social workers, and other allied health care professionals in a collaborative and team approach. They observe, assess, monitor, and document patient symptoms, reactions, and progress. They administer medications, perform medical procedures, educate and inform about nutrition, self-care, medication management, disease prevention and promote health to patients, families and caregivers.

Licensed Practical Nurses make up a large group of health care professionals who provide care to patients. They play a significant role as front line health care delivery. LPN is a dynamic profession with multiple opportunities to learn, grow, and advance in clinical practice or in a leadership role.

Who is suited for to become a licensed practical nurse?

LPNs are most effective when they have the following skills and characteristics:

- caring, compassionate, dependable, ethical, and mature
- ability to remain patient and helpful with people who unwell and/or upset
- ability to be precise and accurate
- strong social skills
- ability to manage high levels of stress related to life threatening situations and medical conditions.
- self-discipline and self-directed
- ability to multi-task in a complex and fast-paced environment
- physically fit, ability to lift up to 20 kilograms is required in some clinical settings
- a clean record, no prior criminal background.

They should enjoy:

- working in a health care environment where they have a genuine interest in caring for people
- working one on one with people who are unwell to help them recover
- working collaboratively with others in a team environment
- using standard and specialized equipment to gather assessments to provide proper care, and the performance of components, assemblies and systems.

Who employs licensed practical nurses?

LPNs are employed in a variety of settings. They work mostly in:

- hospitals
- primary care clinics
- extended care facilities
- rehabilitation centers
- clinics
- doctor's offices
- community agencies
- companies and private homes.

LPNs mostly work shift hours. This includes weekend rotations and they may be required to be on call for emergencies.

LPNs may be exposed to diseases and they must wear protective clothing, such as rubber gloves and masks, in some work environments. Working in emergency situations can be stressful.

Salary

\$24.01/per hour - \$27.32/per hour

Required Training and Education to Become a Licensed Practical Nurse

Becoming an LPN requires that you must complete and pass an LPN or Practical Nurse program recognized by the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of British Columbia.

If you took an LPN or Practical Nurse (PN) program not recognized by the CLPNBC, you must go through an extra step to be assessed before you are allowed to write the Canadian Practical Nurse Exam (CPNRE). You must pass the CPNRE in order to become fully registered.

PN programs offer courses in nursing, health sciences, psychology, liberal studies, health care, and the study of diseases and pathos-physiology. Courses are offered in a variety of formats including lectures, laboratory, small group work, online courses, and clinical experiences in hospital units and community settings.

Learning environments for clinical rotations are in various hospitals, outpatient clinic settings, and rehabilitation wards. LPNs work with acutely ill seniors, adults, children, and families.

Bridging Programs are offered by some institutions, if applicants have achieved a certificate in the following programs: (Health Care Assistant (HCA) or Resident Care Attendant (RCA) or a combined Home Support/Resident Care Attendant (HS/RCA). These applicants may be given credits towards the Practical Nursing program. Please check the institution of your choice for this option.

To become a fully Licensed Practical Nurse in BC

Upon finishing a licensed practical nurse program one of the accredited colleges or university in Canada, you must also pass the Canadian Practical Nurse Registered Exam. This is so that you can become fully licensed and be eligible for registration with the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of British Columbia Canada (CLPNBC).

Students graduating from a Practical Nurse (PN) Program that is **not** recognized by CLPNBC will need to undergo an educational assessment to determine if they are eligible to take the CPNRE and meet the requirements for licensure with CLPNBC.

Source: <http://www.clpnbc.org/What-is-an-LPN/Becoming-an-LPN.aspx>

Career Advancement

A career as an LPN offers many opportunities to learn, grow, advance and change your career direction. After graduating from a Licensed Practical Nursing program, you may choose to work in a variety of work environments or advance your career. Some examples are:

- working in acute care
- caring for the elderly in residential or extended care facilities
- getting advanced training to become an operating room technician
- specializing in community mental health and addictions
- getting further education to become a registered nurse

Whatever your interest – working with children, science and technology, teaching, promoting healthy practices or developing your leadership skills – LPN has endless opportunities for you.

Resources:

Education Programs

Camosun College
<http://camosun.ca/>

Canadian Healthcare Academy
<http://www.chcabc.com/>

CDI College
<http://www.cdicollege.ca/>

College of New Caledonia
<http://www.cnc.bc.ca/>

College of the Rockies
<http://www.cotr.bc.ca/>

Discovery Community College
<http://discoverycommunitycollege.com/>

North Island College
<http://www.nic.bc.ca/>

Northern Lights College
<http://www.nlc.bc.ca/>

Northwest Community College

<http://www.nwcc.bc.ca/>

Okanagan College

<http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/>

SprottShaw Community College

<http://www.sprottshaw.com/>

Steinberg College

<http://www.stenbergcollege.com/>

Thompson Rivers University

<http://www.tru.ca/nursing.htm>

University of the Fraser Valley

<http://www.ufv.ca/home.htm>

Vancouver Career College

<http://www.vccollege.ca/>

Vancouver Community College

<http://www.vcc.ca/>

Vancouver Island University

<http://www.viu.ca/>

Financial assistance and bursaries

For information about Canada student loans and grants, please visit:

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/learning/canada_student_loan/index.shtml

Association

College of Registered Licensed Practical Nurses of British Columbia

<http://www.clpnbc.org/>

Licensed Practical Nurses Association of BC

<http://www.lpnabc.ca>