

Alternative Therapy/Dual Practice

Alternative Therapy

An alternative therapy is a distinct and specialized body of knowledge and acquired skills that may be performed by a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), but which falls outside of the recognized scope of practice for LPNs within Saskatchewan (i.e. chiropractic services, massage therapy, occupational therapy, reiki, aromatherapy, etc.).

The practices of alternative therapy are not regulated by the SALPN.

Alternative therapies are becoming increasingly common as the public seeks additional forms of therapy and treatments for their health problems. Some LPNs may be involved in one or more alternative therapies in addition to their nursing practice, and thus may become involved in dual practice.

Dual Practice

Dual practice occurs when an LPN provides both nursing services and another non–nursing service to a client.

Standards of Practice

The Act, bylaws, Code of Ethics, policies, and Standards of Practice governing members of the SALPN apply for each practical nursing service provided to a client.

Members of the SALPN shall ensure that his or her professional judgment and integrity are not compromised by motives of profit. Members shall make it clear to the client which discipline is responsible for incurred costs, and whether the LPN has a vested interest in any products being sold, regardless of discipline.

Liability Insurance, Regulatory and Other Association Memberships, Billing, and Advertising

Liability Insurance provided to members of the SALPN **does not** cover alternative therapies. Therefore, members are strongly encouraged to obtain sufficient insurance for each alternative therapy that they practice.

Members are also strongly encouraged to gain membership to the appropriate provincial and national regulatory or other association(s) for each alternative therapy that they practice.

Members of the SALPN shall ensure that clients and third–party payers, if involved, are fully informed of which service provided to them is a practical nursing service, and which is not. Members shall also keep clear, confidential, and separate records, including billings, of practical nursing services and alternative therapy services

provided.

Advertising and marketing of LPN services and alternative therapy services in the same advertisement must be clear with respect to which services are LPN services and which are not.

Clinical Practice Hours

Members of the SALPN shall ensure that they report to the SALPN on their annual licence renewal only those clinical practice hours accumulated in the provision of LPN practice. Hours spent in the practice of an alternative therapy do not qualify for licensure requirements.

Services

Members of the SALPN who provide alternative therapy services to clients shall ensure that:

- a. they do not hold themselves out as an LPN when providing these services; and
- b. they do not refer to the provision of alternative therapy services as practical nursing.

If a client comes to an LPN for a nursing service, then the LPN shall use all efforts to treat the client through the LPN scope of practice first.

In order to keep LPN practice and alternative therapies distinct and separate to clients, LPNs shall obtain a signed client consent form for the alternative therapy that incorporates the understanding that the alternative therapy is not a form of practicing nursing and therefore falls outside of the jurisdiction of the SALPN.

When the treatment plan involves both practical nursing and an alternative therapy, the LPN shall ensure that the client is informed of the following:

- a. the differences between the act of practical nursing and the alternative therapy;
- b. that the alternative therapy may not be regulated; and
- c. that the client has the right to refuse any or all parts of an assessment or treatment, regardless of the therapy.

References

College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta. (2015). Competency Profile. Edmonton: College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta.

College of Licensed Practical Nurses of BC. (2013). A Resource for Self–Employed LPNs. Burnaby: College of Licensed Practical Nurses of BC.

Saskatchewan College of Physical Therapists. (2012). Alternative Therapy/Dual Practice. Regina: Saskatchewan College of Physical Therapists.

Saskatchewan Association of Naturopathic Practitioners. (2009). Policies and Procedures: Dual Registration.