

**Z: Peri-Operative  
Specialized Area  
of Practice**

Major Competency Area: **Z**  
**Perioperative Care: Specialized Area of LPN Practice**

View the [Specialized Areas of Practice](#) Practice Guideline for more information.

Competency: **Z-1**  
Authorization and Standards

Date: June 25, 2015

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

**Z-1-1** Former competency Z-1 related to the “Standards of Practice and Competencies for Peri-operative Nursing Care, 2010” has been rescinded. All LPNs are expected to practice in accordance with the [Standards of Practice for LPNs in Canada](#).

Major Competency Area: **Z**  
**Perioperative Care: Specialized Area of LPN Practice**

Competency: **Z-2**  
**Knowledge and Application**

Date: June 25, 2015

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

**Z-2-1 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to apply critical thinking and clinical judgment within the Scope of Practice of a Licensed Practical Nurse in a Peri-operative role**

**Z-2-2 Demonstrate the knowledge and ability to practice Licensed Practical Nurse Perioperative Nursing in the operating room:**

- Role of the LPN in the operating room
- Application of nursing process
- Admission and transfer of client
- Apply principles of asepsis and sterile techniques
- Demonstrate an understanding of surgical procedures, and understanding of policies and procedures
- Knowledge of the different disease processes
- Understanding of the medications used in pre, intra, and immediate post-operative care
- Anesthesia medications and protocols
- Client and health care team safety measures
- Assist in the teaching / orientation of new staff
- Ordering of supplies, equipment as appropriate
- Prepare costing for surgical procedures as appropriate
- Policies related directly to the surgical suite (i.e. restricted access or dress code)
- Knowledge of policies and procedure, standards and applicable legislation (i.e. occupational health and safety)
- Documentation and reporting

Major Competency Area: **Z**  
**Perioperative Care: Specialized Area of LPN Practice**

Competency: **Z-3**  
**Knowledge and Application  
of Scrub Role**

Date: June 25, 2015

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

**Z-3-1**

**Demonstrate knowledge and ability to carry out the requirements of the Licensed Practical Nurse in the perioperative Scrub Role:**

- ☒ Carry out the requirements of the Licensed Practical Nurse in the perioperative Scrub Role
- ☒ "Prepare and maintain the sterile field and supplies"
- ☒ "Prepare and maintain the sterile field and supplies"
- ☒ "Prepare and maintain the sterile field and supplies"

**Z-3-2**

**Demonstrate knowledge and ability to perform the competencies of the Licensed Practical Nurse in the Scrub Role:**

- Perform surgical scrub procedures
- Perform safety checks
  - Participate in safe surgery check list as per facility policy
  - Confirm/validate internal sterility indicators
- Check case cart/supplies
- Ensure equipment/instrumentation is available, set up, and in good repair
- Prepare efficient sterile set-up
- Drape client for procedure
- Surgical site marking visible when draping is complete
- Knowledge of sequence of events of surgery
- Anticipate needs of surgeon
- Organize and handle sutures, needles, other sharps, and staples
- Manipulate and hand instruments to surgeon and assistants
- Observe for inadvertent breaks in sterile technique and assist with corrective action
- Identify specimens to circulating personnel and type of testing required
- When possible, anticipates unexpected or adverse events and take action
- Handle, label and prepare medications and contrasts for administration to the client
- Participate in handling and counting of instruments and supplies
- Appropriate disposal of hazardous materials
- Appropriate disposal of all sharps
- Ensure appropriate surgical procedure documentation
- Provide skin closure and apply sterile dressing as necessary

Major Competency Area: **Z**  
**Perioperative Care: Specialized Area of LPN Practice**

Competency: **Z-4**  
**Knowledge and Application  
of Circulating Role**

Date: June 25, 2015

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

**Z-4-1 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to perform as a Licensed Practical Nurse Circulating Role in the preparation of the operating room theatre:**

- Prepare the room supplies and equipment for a specific operative procedure (includes, but may not be limited to, special equipment, positioning devices, sutures, case cart, warming supplies, IV solutions, physician cards)
- Notify all other healthcare professionals who may be required for the surgical procedure (i.e. pathologist, technicians)
- Access x-rays and diagnostic tests as ordered or required.
- Participate in safe surgery checklist

**Z-4-2 Demonstrate ability to prepare client for the surgical procedure as the LPN circulator:**

- Identify and assess client
- Perform the pre-operative checklist
- Transport client to the operating room theatre
- Receive client into the operating room theatre and carry out appropriate checks
- Assist surgeon and anaesthesia provider with positioning client safely on the operating room table
- Reassure client and explain procedures
- Apply monitor and equipment as required, i.e., ECG, BP, Pulse
- Oximetry, other anesthetic equipment
- Apply necessary equipment, i.e., tourniquet, drainage systems
- Insert urinary catheter and set up drainage as ordered
- Prepare irrigation solutions as necessary
- Prepare operative site,
  - Prepare client skin prior to procedure i.e. antiseptic skin prep
- Provide assistance and support to the scrub nurse with draping and connection to suction, power tools, etc

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

**Z-4-3 Demonstrate ability to provide assistance during the operative procedure:**

- Provide, prepare and label medication for administration to the client as ordered
- Receive and verify specimens by labeling, handling, and documenting appropriately
- Inspect all sterile items for contamination prior to opening
- Present open sterile supplies
- Present sterile supplies to scrub personnel
- Provide appropriate instruments and supplies as needed
- Prepare supplies for sterilization- flash sterilization as per facility policy/procedure
- Document client care, specimens, sponge counts, medications used intraoperatively
- Document blood loss, fluid output, and intake as required or directed
- Document any and all unusual incidents with appropriate follow up action as per facility policy
- Assist with vital signs as appropriate
- Ensure, along with a second individual, that counts are completed, documented, and acknowledged to the team
- All counts must be performed with two licensed professionals
- Monitor sterile technique performed throughout the surgical procedure
- Provide continuous, astute observation of the surgical team throughout the operative phase while meeting their needs with minimal time delays
- Assist with monitoring and evaluating the physical well-being of the client to prevent potential impairment or injury

**Z-4-4 Demonstrate ability to provide and assist with procedures and devices required to complete client care following the surgical procedure:**

- Observe and provide appropriate response to complications and unexpected events during the surgical procedure i.e., cardiac arrest, hypothermia
- Assist in the physical client transfer and post-operative positioning
- Affix and observe the dressing post-operatively verifying all drains are properly connected and secured as well as appropriate documentation is completed
- Complete operative record and have scrub personnel review

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

- Z-4-5**      **Demonstrate ability to provide support and assistance in providing safety and efficiency for the surgical team and client:**
- Advocate for client
  - Assist collaboratively with the co-ordination of the surgical schedule procedures i.e., sending for patient, surgeons availability, staffing, providing necessary equipment available
  - Comply with Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) regulations
  - Apply routine/standard, or additional precautions i.e. airborne, droplet and/or contact precautions
  - Carry out appropriate surgical scrub procedures or safety checks, i.e. client identification, allergies, with the circulating nurse
  - Check case cart and supplies for completeness
  - Ensure all equipment and instrumentation is in good repair and available
  - Trouble shoot equipment that malfunctions and seek assistance
  - Facilitates use of accessory surgical equipment, i.e. lasers, electrocautery units
  - Recognizes an emergent situation and send for assistance or supplies as required.
  - Knowledge and understanding of sterile storage requirements i.e temperature and humidity levels
  - Appropriate disposal of hazardous materials
  - Appropriate disposal of sharps

Major Competency Area: **Z**  
**Perioperative Care: Specialized Area of LPN Practice**

Competency: **Z-5**  
**Knowledge and Assistance  
to the Anesthesia Provider**

Date: June 25, 2015

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

**Z-5-1 Demonstrate critical thinking and clinical judgment related to assisting the anaesthesia provider in each of the following competencies.**

- Z-5-2 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to assist anesthesia provider:**
- Provides supplies to anesthesia provider as required
  - Supply anesthetic cart, i.e. tubing, appropriate size face mask, airway and breathing bag depending on the age and size of the client
  - Provide appropriate endotracheal tubes
  - Assist the anesthesia provider with the administration of general anesthetic, epidural, spinal, topical, retrobulbular, local anesthetics, and blocks
  - Initiate intravenous and prepare supplies for anesthesia provider
  - Provide medication to the anesthesia provider when requested
  - Assist with induction of anesthetic:
    - Intubation, fixation, and connection of endotracheal tube
    - Cricoid pressure if necessary
    - Assist with extubation and reversal of anesthesia
  - Provide necessary eye protection, i.e., tape, saline sponge, etc.
  - Knowledge of the preparation related to insertion of central venous line (CVP) line, arterial lines, blood warmers
  - Check blood and blood products identification with two licensed providers
  - Assist with transfer of client to Post Anesthetic Recovery Room, Intensive Care Units, or receiving unit
  - Restock anesthetic medication as required



Major Competency Area: **Z**  
**Perioperative Care: Specialized Area of LPN Practice**

Competency: **Z-6**  
**Knowledge and Application of  
Pre-Operative Phase**

Date: June 25, 2015

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

- Z-6-1 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to receive and monitor client in pre-operative phase or pre-surgery care as appropriate:**
- Provide explanations and demonstrate a caring attitude to the client and family
  - Provide information, materials, and support for client and family
  - Check each pre-operative chart for completeness as per facility policy:
  - Accurate identification of client
    - Complete chart
    - History
    - Any prior surgeries
    - Allergy check
    - Hemoglobin, E.C.G., urinalysis, x-ray as ordered
    - Consult if required
    - Consent for the surgical procedure
  - Seek confirmation of the following from the clients or family:
    - Name
    - Doctor
    - Operative site/surgical procedure
    - Surgical site verification and marking (side or laterality) as per facility policy/procedure
    - Nothing per mouth
    - Removal of dentures and partials
    - Identification of prostheses and location
    - Identification of implants, i.e. pacemaker, cochlear implant
    - Removal and or identification, piercings , and knowledge of metal protocols
    - Removal of nail polish and false nails
    - Knowledge of tattoo locations
    - Pre-existing medical conditions and medications
  - Provide the client with warm blankets, pillows, and other comfort measures
  - Attach all necessary monitoring devices, i.e., blood pressure, oxygen, E.C.G.

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

- Z-6-2**      **Demonstrate knowledge and ability to receive and monitor client in pre-operative phase or pre-surgery care as appropriate (con't):**
- Apply all necessary safety measures- safety straps and remain with the patient
  - Provide O2 when required or ordered by doctor
  - Check all fluids levels i.e., intravenous (IV) and drainage unit and document
  - Attach patient equipment to electrical outlet if battery supply is low
  - Assist surgeons and anesthesia provider with physical examinations of client providing necessary equipment and providing privacy for client
  - Assist anesthesia provider with topical, retrobulbular, local anesthetic, administration of eye medication, initiation of IV site
  - Knowledge of code cart, defibrillator, difficult intubation cart/ equipment
  - Understanding the LPN role in a code situation – code blue, cardiac arrest as per facility policy

This page intentionally left blank