



Practice  
Guideline

# PRECEPTORSHIP

Saskatchewan Association of  
Licensed Practical Nurses



**Mission:** Protect the public through regulation of the Licensed Practical Nurse profession in Saskatchewan.

**Vision:** Excellence in the regulation of Licensed Practical Nurses

**Values:** Integrity, Quality, Professionalism, Respect.

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# Preceptorship

*The legislated mandate of the Saskatchewan Association of Licensed Practice Nurses isto protect the public through the regulation of Licensed Practical Nurses.*

*Practice Guidelines are documents that help LPNs understand their responsibilities and legal obligations to enable them to make safe and ethical decisions when practicing. They provide an outline of professional accountabilities and relevant legislation (CNO, 2020).*

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## Using this document

**Practice Guidelines** are documents that help LPNs understand their responsibilities and legal obligations to enable them to make safe and ethical decisions when practicing. They provide an outline of professional accountabilities and relevant legislation (CNO, 2020).

This document describes the Saskatchewan Association of Licensed Practical Nurses (SALPN) practice expectations for nurses providing foot care to clients.

**Bolded** terms are defined in the glossary on page 13.

All SALPN documents are available from the SALPN website at [www.salpn.com](http://www.salpn.com)

## Introduction

A **preceptor** is an experienced Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) who provides supervision during clinical practice and facilitates applying theory to practice for students (Dalhousie University, 2021).

Preceptorship occurs when an experienced and competent LPN acts as a role model and resource person to a student currently enrolled in a practical nurse education program. This LPN guides the clinical development of a PN student on a one-to-one basis to facilitate the transition from student to LPN. In addition, the LPN preceptor shares their knowledge and skills and guides the PN student while performing their usual duties.

LPNs are professionally obligated through the Standards of Practice to support learners in developing and refining competencies needed for safe, competent, and ethical practice<sup>1</sup>. LPNs with an opportunity to provide mentorship and preceptorship to a PN student are expected to support learners to gain skills and competence in a practice setting and assist them in integrating as functioning members of the health care team.

By precepting a PN student, LPNs can gain knowledge and leadership skills, and many will find the experience enriching and rewarding.

## Accountability of the LPN

The LPN preceptor ensures client safety and facilitates a learning environment that orientates the PN student to the professional expectation of the role of an LPN. When supervising the PN student, the LPN preceptor is accountable for sharing appropriate nursing knowledge and maintaining safe, competent, and ethical care in accordance with the Standards of Practice, the Code of Ethics, and employer policies.

The LPN who accepts a preceptor role must understand and be competent in any activity that they supervise. An LPN preceptor cannot allow the PN student to work outside the **Professional Scope of Practice** nor the parameters established by the school of nursing.

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<sup>1</sup> 2020 Standards of Practice for Licensed Practical Nurses in Canada, Indicator 1.10, *LPNs provide leadership to support and/or participate in mentoring and preceptorship.*

The SALPN does not regulate PN students, and learners do not work under, nor are they covered by, the LPN preceptor's license. However, PN students are accountable for their actions to the patient, educational institutions, and clinical placement organizations. If or when a learner makes an error, examining the error's context is important. LPNs are not accountable for decisions or actions of other care providers when those actions were unknown or unforeseen. As such, an LPN is not accountable for the PN student's actions if their accountabilities to ensure safe patient care were met and if the LPN had no way of knowing the error would occur (College of Nurses of Ontario, 2021).

The LPN Preceptor is responsible for evaluating the PN student's knowledge and competence and identifying if the PN student requires additional theory or clinical experience to complete the practical nursing education program. In addition, the LPN preceptor is responsible for communicating with the school where the student is enrolled any student-related concerns.

LPNs are expected to share their nursing knowledge and expertise with PN students. Effective communication between those involved in the formal support system ensures a successful educational experience for the PN student and the LPN preceptor. In addition, it ensures that the client receives safe, competent, and ethical care.

## Continuing Education Portfolio (CEP)

Precepting a PN student is considered a continuing education activity and can be reported for CEP hours by the LPN preceptor. Please refer to the CEP program information on the SALPN website.

## Additional resources

University of Saskatchewan. (unknown). *Preceptor Education and Support in Saskatchewan*. <https://saskpreceptors.ca/>

## Glossary

**Preceptor** - an experienced LPN who provides supervision during clinical practice and facilitates applying theory to practice for students.

**Professional Scope of Practice** - The full range of roles, functions, and responsibilities a regulated professional is authorized to perform within licensure and is expected to do so safely, competently, and ethically.

## References

College of Nurses of Ontario (2021, May). *Supporting Learners*. Retrieved from <https://www.cno.org/en/learn-about-standards-guidelines/educational-tools/ask-practice/supporting-learners/>

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