



HEALTH CAREER OPTIONS GUIDE

for internationally educated health professionals

Licensed Practical Nurse - LPN

This profession is also known as:

- registered practical nurse -RPN in Ontario

What is a licensed practical nurse?

A licensed practical nurse provides nursing care in collaboration with registered nurses and/or other health team members.



What are the main duties of a licensed practical nurse?

This nurse:

- Provides nursing services, within a defined scope of practice, to patients based on assessments and care planning procedures.
- Performs nursing interventions i.e. vital signs, applying aseptic techniques - sterile dressing, ensuring infection control, monitoring nutritional intake and conducting specimen collection.
- Administers medication, and observes and documents therapeutic effects.
- Provides pre-operative and post-operative personal and comfort care.
- Monitors established respiratory therapy and intravenous therapy.
- Monitors patients' progress, evaluates effectiveness of nursing interventions and consults with appropriate members of healthcare team.
- Provides safety and health education to individuals and their families.



What personal characteristics or desired traits do I need for this profession?

You must:

- Enjoy caring for people of all ages.
- Have good communication skills and interpersonal skills.
- Be able to cope with stress and occasional emergency situations.
- Be physically strong because this is demanding work. Physical demands include moving and lifting others, and spending long periods of time on your feet.

Where do Licensed Practical Nurses Work?

They work in hospitals, nursing homes, extended care facilities, rehabilitation centres, doctors' offices, clinics, companies, private homes and community health centres.

What are typical work conditions?

- Hospital settings require 24 hour coverage so shift work is common.
- Physically demanding role requiring many hours standing, walking, lifting others etc.
- Intermittent stressful/emergency situations.

What qualifications do I need for this profession?

- Completion of a vocational, college or other approved program for licensed practical nurses is required.
- Registration with a regulatory body is required in all provinces and territories.
- Completion of the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination is required in all provinces and territories except Quebec.
- Current Basic Cardiac Life Support and First Aid certification required.
- Current (within 6 months) Vulnerable Position/Sector Screening (VPS).

What communication skills do I need?

You:

- Must possess strong written and oral communication, critical thinking, care coordination, time management and client focus skills.
- Must demonstrate sound clinical knowledge.
- Computer proficiency and experience with Microsoft office applications.

For a full list of the essential skills you need for this professions:

http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/es_view_profile-eng.do?prof_id=55&lang=eng

What wage can I expect for this work?

- Average Canadian hourly wage Low 19.00 Median 25.00 High 32.00
http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/LMI_report_bynoc.do?noc=3233&reportOption=wage

- Career Outlook
[http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/LMI_report_bynoc.do?](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/LMI_report_bynoc.do?noc=3233&reportOption=outlook)

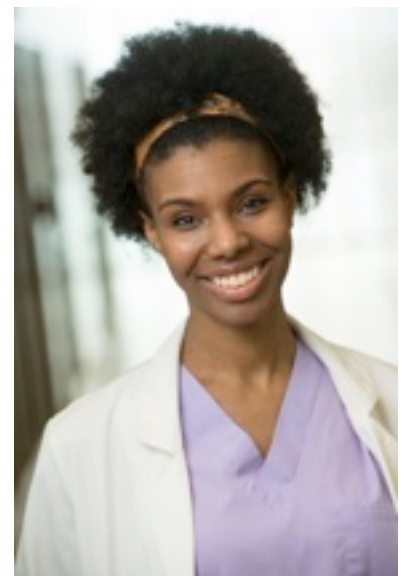
[noc=3233&reportOption=outlook](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/LMI_report_bynoc.do?noc=3233&reportOption=outlook)

Are there opportunities for advancement?

- There is a variety of clinical roles for LPNs, nationally.
- Supervisory and practice coordination roles requires further education at baccalaureate level

Learn more about this profession by visiting these sites.

- National Occupation Code 3233
The government of Canada has given a code to each occupation/ profession. Use the code to learn more about licensed practical nurses on government sites.
- Canadian Council of Practical Nurse Regulators



There is no national registration / license in Canada. Nursing registration and licensure are the responsibilities of the provinces and territories; each has unique legislation governing nursing.
<http://www.ccpnr.ca/>

- Self Assessment Readiness Tool (SART)™ for Licensed Practical Nurses
This tool will allow you to compare your own skills and competencies to those required to work in this profession. It will help you make an informed decision about this career option.
<https://assesshealthcareers.ca/>

References

- National Occupational Classification, 2011 (NOC 3233) 15/4/16
- Workopolis
www.workopolis.com
- Job bank
http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/job_search_results.do;jsessionid=C48C379977F12D539D1264ED790B77E7.imnav1?searchstring=3233&sort=M&button.submit=Search
- Careers NS
<https://careers.novascotia.ca/occupation/169>