

**NAPNES**  
**Standards of Practice**  
**for**  
**Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses**



**N**APNES has set the standards for nursing practice of LP/VNs since 1941. The following standards represent the foundation for the provision of safe and competent nursing practice. Competency implies knowledge, understanding, and skills that transcend specific tasks and is guided by a commitment to ethical/legal principles.

This statement of standards is intended for nursing educators, healthcare administrators, nurses and healthcare consumers.

**THE LP/VN PROVIDES INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY-CENTERED NURSING CARE BY:**

- A. Utilizing appropriate knowledge, skills and abilities.
- B. Utilizing principles of the nursing process in meeting specific patient needs in diversified health care settings.
- C. Maintaining appropriate written documentation and utilizing effective communication skills with patients, family, significant others and members of the health team.
- D. Executing principles of crisis intervention to maintain safety.
- E. Providing appropriate education to patients, family, and significant others to promote health, facilitate rehabilitation and maintain wellness.
- F. Serving as a patient advocate to protect patient rights.

## **THE LP/VN FULFILLS THE PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRACTICAL/VOCATIONAL NURSE BY:**

- A. Applying the ethical principles underlying the profession.
- B. Following legal requirements.
- C. Following the policies and procedures of the employing facility.
- D. Cooperating and collaborating with all members of the health-care team to meet the needs of family-centered nursing care.
- E. Assuming accountability for his/her nursing actions.
- F. Seeking educational opportunities to improve knowledge and skills.
- G. Building post-licensure skills to assure and increase continuing competence.

### **Code of Ethics**

The Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse Shall:

1. Consider as a basic obligation the conservation of life and the prevention of disease.
2. Promote and protect the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health of the patient and his family.
3. Fulfill all duties faithfully and efficiently.
4. Function within established legal guidelines.
5. Accept personal responsibility (for his/her acts) and seek to merit the respect and confidence of all members of the health team.
6. Hold in confidence all matters coming to his/her knowledge, in the practice of his/her profession, and in no way and at no time violate this confidence.
7. Give conscientious service and charge just remuneration.
8. Learn and respect the religious and cultural beliefs of his/her patient and of all people.
9. Meet his/her obligation to the patient by keeping abreast of current trends in health care through reading and continuing education.
10. As a citizen of the United States of America, uphold the laws of the land and seek to promote legislation that will meet the health needs of its people.

NAPNES Promotes

## "The Service of Nursing: A National Priority"



### **The Florence Nightingale Pledge**

I solemnly...

Pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly, to pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully.

I will...

Abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous and I will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug.

I will...

Do all in my power to maintain and elevate the standard of my profession and will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping and all family affairs coming to my knowledge in the practice of my calling.

With loyalty...

Will I endeavor to aid the physician in his work, and devote myself to welfare of those committed to my care.

### **NAPNES**

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