

# BULLETIN

For Immediate Release

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College of LPNs of BC



## COLLEGE OF LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Notice to all LPNs on Immunization  
November 5, 2004

LPNs in BC (2004) are not currently authorized to administer any immunizing agents including the flu vaccine. LPNs require formal post-basic education not currently available in BC to perform this function. (CLPNBC Practice Guideline, Medication Administration Page 14.)

### Reasons:

1. The theory and principles of immunology, biological agents, communicable disease, and anaphylaxis is not adequately covered in the generic PN education programs in BC. to administer immunizing agents of all kinds.
2. As professional practitioners, LPNs must abide with the Standards of Practice and work within their range of competencies.

**Standard 1: Responsibility and Accountability: An LPN maintains standards of nursing practice, professional conduct and safety in the practice setting.**

**Indicator 4. Takes responsibility and is accountable for safe nursing practice.**

**Standard 2: Knowledge: An LPN bases practice on knowledge derived from the study of nursing, health and other sciences, and humanities.**

**Indicator 1: Understands evidence-based knowledge from nursing, health sciences and related disciplines.**

**Standard 6: Self-regulation: An LPN assumes responsibility for maintaining competence and fitness to practice.**

**Indicator 2. Assumes primary responsibility and accountability for maintaining own competence and fitness to practice.**

Please bear in mind that immunization competency is much more than simply giving an intramuscular injection and is critical to public safety. The College of LPNs of BC is aware of the difficulties encountered for the practitioners and employers and is working on this issue.

**Note: Registrants who have successfully completed a formal post-basic immunization course from an educational institution in another province and have documented evidence, such as a certificate, of their immunization competencies, may submit their credential to the College for review prior to engaging in this practice.**

Employers and practitioners, who have further questions or concern are invited to contact the Nursing Practice Consultants at CLPNBC to discuss their concerns.

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