

# BULLETIN

For Immediate Release  
2004CLPNBC0001-0001  
April 30, 2004

College of LPNs of BC



## COLLEGE OF LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

### Notice to all LPNs on Pharmacology/Medication Administration

#### **When is the deadline for having all five units of pharmacology/medication administration?**

By **January 1<sup>st</sup> 2006**, you will need to have the full range of competencies in pharmacology and medication administration (five units listed below) to obtain your Annual CLPNBC Registration.

#### **What is the full range of LPN competencies (2004) for Medication Administration?**

The following five units constitute the pharmacology course.

1. Basic Pharmacology
2. Gero-pharmacology
3. Administration of intramuscular and subcutaneous injections and narcotics
4. Supporting intravenous therapy
5. Taking and Transcribing Medication Orders

#### **What range of Medication Administration Competencies do I have?**

Medication administration theory and oral medication administration was introduced in the PN Curriculum in 1984. Administration of subcutaneous injections was added in 1996 and the competency of intramuscular injections was added in 1999/2000. Supporting intravenous therapy was added in 2002. About the same time, the theory of taking and transcribing medication orders was added. Your individual pharmacology/medication administration competencies include what you were taught (and use) plus whatever courses you have taken through continuing education since your graduation.

#### **When was 'Taking and Transcribing Medication Orders' added to LPN Competencies?**

In February 2004, the College of Pharmacy gave support for prescription transcription to pharmacists by licensed practical nurses as follows: LPNs caring for patients in residential care facilities, hospitals, and penal institutions are now included on the list of nurses from whom pharmacists can accept written transcriptions of physician's telephone orders. The policy applies only to hospital pharmacies, community pharmacies involved with the provision of pharmacy services, residential care facilities, homes licensed under the Community Care Facility Act, and to penal institutions.

#### **I've been taking and transcribing medication orders and giving medications for years. Do I need to take that unit or the whole course?**

You need to provide evidence that you have taken the course and are competent if asked by the CLPNBC or the employer. If you graduated prior to all units being taught in the course or have not taken one or more units and/or have not practiced medication administration for five or more years, you will need to take the missing units of the course or the whole pharmacology/medication administration course in order to maintain your CLPNBC registration.

#### **Do I need pharmacology/medication administration theory and skills if I am not using it in my job?**

**Yes.** Your knowledge of pharmacology/medication administration is necessary for you to assess and provide competent care to your clients, understand medication side effects, etc.

#### **Where do I take the course?**

You can take the course at the following educational institutions:

- Vancouver Community College (distance or classroom), Tel: (604) 443-8673 or (604) 443-8674
- B. C. Open University (distance), Tel: (604) 431-3302
- Malaspina University College (classroom), Tel: (250) 740-6410
- Okanagan University College (classroom), Tel: (250) 762-5445
- Camosun College (classroom), Tel: (250) 370-3236
- College of the Rockies (distance), Tel: (877) 489-2687, ext. 370 or (250) 489-2751, ext. 370.

**Be sure your course includes a lab and a clinical practicum in the fees.**

#### **Who pays for the course?**

The following sources may provide funding for you: Ministry of Health, Tel: (250) 952-3534; your employer; or your Regional Health Authority. Otherwise you may be responsible for paying for this important upgrade.

#### **Why do I have to do this?**

As a professional person responsible and accountable for the health of members of the public, you are required to maintain a high standard of care that all employers can feel confident to hire and employ. Moreover, you and your colleagues can be proud of your profession as a LPN.