

**Scope of Practice for Nursing Professions  
in the Prevention and Treatment of Influenza Like Illness**

Management of pandemics requires system wide surge capacity to ensure maximum prevention services and treatment options. Interdisciplinary practice with all health care partners working to full scope of practice facilitates efficiency and effectiveness in community and institutional services. The purpose of this document is to clarify scope of practice for BC Nurses (Nurse Practitioners, Registered Nurses, Registered Psychiatric Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses) with regard to prevention and treatment of Influenza like Illness (ILI).

	<b>Prevention (Immunization &amp; Antivirals)</b>	<b>Treatment (Antivirals)</b>
<p><b>Nurse practitioner (NP)</b>  <a href="http://www.crnbc.ca">www.crnbc.ca</a></p>	<p>Under the Nurses (Registered) and Nurse Practitioners Regulation, nurse practitioners (NPs) have authority to order, administer, compound or dispense immunoprophylactic (e.g., vaccines) and chemoprophylactic agents (e.g., antivirals).</p>	<p>Under the Nurses (Registered) and Nurse Practitioners Regulation, nurse practitioners (NPs) have authority to diagnose and treat (including the prescribing of Schedule 1 drugs) influenza and other commonly occurring acute and chronic diseases and disorders. <i>NPs may the authority to order for others to administer/dispense Schedule 1 medications, including antivirals.</i></p>
<p><b>Registered Nurses (RN)</b>  <a href="http://www.crnbc.ca">www.crnbc.ca</a></p>	<p><b>Immunization</b></p> <p>Under the Nurses (Registered) and Nurse Practitioners Regulation, registered nurses (RNs) have authority to compound, dispense and administer immunoprophylactic agents (e.g., vaccines) without an order to prevent disease.</p> <p>RNs who carry out these activities must adhere to standards, limits and conditions established by CRNBC which include following decision support tools established by the BC Centre for Disease Control. The decision support tool can be found at: <a href="http://www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/comm-manual/CDManualChap2.htm">http://www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/comm-manual/CDManualChap2.htm</a>.</p> <p><b>Antivirals</b></p> <p>Under the Nurses (Registered) and Nurse Practitioners Regulation, registered nurses (RNs) have authority to administer, compound or dispense chemoprophylactic agents (e.g., antivirals) without an order to prevent disease.</p> <p>RNs who carry out these activities must adhere to standards, limits and conditions established by CRNBC which include following decision support tools established by the BC Centre for Disease Control.</p>	<p><b>Antivirals</b></p> <p>Under the Nurses (Registered) and Nurse Practitioners Regulation, registered nurses (RNs) may administer, compound or dispense antivirals to treat symptoms of an influenza-like illness in the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the local Medical Health Officer or the Provincial Health Officer has determined that H1N1 or other influenza is circulating in or around the patient’s community, and</li> <li>• a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner or is not available to examine and diagnose the patient.</li> </ul> <p>RNs who carry out these activities must adhere to standards, limits and conditions established by CRNBC which include following a decision support tool established by the Provincial Government. This decision support tool can be found at: <a href="http://www.gov.bc.ca/h1n1/healthcareproviders/index.html">http://www.gov.bc.ca/h1n1/healthcareproviders/index.html</a></p> <p><i>In all other circumstances, RNs may dispense or administer antivirals for treatment purposes with an order from a physician or nurse practitioner.</i></p>

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<p><b>Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN)</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.clpnb.ca">www.clpnb.ca</a></p>	<p><b>Immunization</b></p> <p>Under the Nurses (Licensed Practical) Regulation, Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) have authority to administer intramuscular and subcutaneous injections within their knowledge, skill and ability. These activities must be carried out under the direction of a physician, nurse practitioner or the supervision of a RN.</p> <p>In order to provide immunizations, LPNs must adhere to the standards, limits and conditions established by the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of BC (CLPNBC) which include following decision support tools established by the BC Centre for Disease Control. These decision support tool can be found at: <a href="http://www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/comm-manual/CDManualChap2.htm">http://www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/comm-manual/CDManualChap2.htm</a></p> <p>The limits and conditions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LPNs must have successfully completed an immunization course approved by the CLPNBC</li> <li>• LPNs may only administer immunizations to clients four (4) years of age and over</li> </ul> <p>LPNs are responsible to assess and determine whether a specific client is eligible to receive an immunization(s) and are accountable for their decisions. LPNs are responsible for consulting with and/or seeking clinical guidance from an RN or physician who must be in the same facility as the LPN administering the immunization.</p> <p><b>Antivirals</b></p> <p>LPNs may administer antivirals for prevention purposes with an <b>order</b> from a physician or nurse practitioner.</p>	<p>LPNs may dispense or administer antivirals for treatment purposes with an order from a physician or nurse practitioner.</p>

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<p><b>Registered Psychiatric Nurses</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.crpnb.ca">http://www.crpnb.ca</a></p>	<p><b>Immunization</b></p> <p>Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPNs) have the competencies to administer intramuscular and subcutaneous injections within their knowledge, skill and ability.</p> <p>RPNs must follow the decision support tools established by the BC Centre for Disease Control. These decision support tool can be found at: <a href="http://www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/comm-manual/CDManualChap2.htm">http://www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/comm-manual/CDManualChap2.htm</a></p> <p>It is recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RPNs successfully complete an immunization course approved by the CRPNBC</li> <li>• RPNs only administer immunizations to clients four (4) years of age and over</li> </ul> <p>RPNs are responsible to assess and determine whether a specific client is eligible to receive an immunization(s) and are accountable for their decisions. RPNs are responsible for consulting with and/or seeking clinical guidance from a Public health Nurse, NP or physician when needed.</p> <p><b>Antivirals</b></p> <p>RPNs may administer antivirals for prevention purposes with an <b>order</b> from a physician or nurse practitioner.</p>	<p>RPNs may dispense or administer antivirals for treatment purposes with an <b>order</b> from a physician or Nurse Practitioner.</p>