Module 1 – Introduction and Overview

1. Introduction

1.1 Welcome

Narration

No narration, only music.
1.2 Study Guide

Narration

JILL: Hi ... I’m Jill and I have my colleague Carlos with me. We’ll be your guides for these educational modules on jurisprudence. Are you ready to begin, Carlos?

CARLOS: I sure am! Jurisprudence ... doesn’t that mean the legal environment within which healthcare professionals practice?

JILL: Yes it does. Technically, jurisprudence is defined as the science or philosophy of law. The application of law in day-to-day practice can be complex, and sometimes confusing. Therefore, this Study Guide has been developed to assist licensed practical nurses in Alberta to become more knowledgeable about the legislation, standards and regulatory requirements affecting their profession.

CARLOS: Sounds interesting. So what are we going to talk about in this Introductory Module?

JILL: We have just defined jurisprudence. So next we will explain why it is important for LPNs to be thoroughly familiar with the legislation and regulations.

CARLOS: After that, I suppose that we will describe the purpose and scope of the Study Guide; the five modules and what each is about; and finally the different learning components including some tips about how to get the most from this learning resource.

JILL: Yes, that is correct.

CARLOS: Great, let’s begin!
1.3 Importance

**Importance of Jurisprudence**

- Client safety and well-being
- Daily practice decisions
- Core competence
- Registration requirement
- Disciplinary consequences

**Narration**

**CARLOS:** Jill, I’m curious about why we need to know about jurisprudence. Don’t licensed practical nurses learn this as part of their professional training?

**JILL:** Well, yes and no. It depends on where they took their training. Educational programs typically focus on the clinical aspects of becoming a competent nurse. Less attention is paid to the regulatory requirements. These vary from province to province. So the jurisprudence information we are going to cover applies to those LPNs practicing in Alberta.

There are several other good reasons why practical nurses should be familiar with their regulatory environment. What do you think some of these reasons are?

**CARLOS:** Well, the primary reason for so many regulations in healthcare is for client safety and well-being. These requirements are there to ensure that we provide safe and competent nursing care.

**JILL:** Good point. We also need to understand jurisprudence because it affects our daily practice. It tells us what we can, and can’t do, in dealing with clients, colleagues and the public. Knowing the legal, regulatory and policy requirements is also part of the core competence of healthcare professionals.

**CARLOS:** We should mention that LPNs have to pass a jurisprudence exam in order to register with the CLPNA. I’m sure that many of these professionals will find this Study Guide useful as they prepare to take that exam.

**JILL:** The final reason for knowing and adhering to the regulatory requirements is that this knowledge will help LPNs avoid becoming the subject of a complaint!
CARLOS: Yes, and that could have some serious consequences! A regulated member could face unprofessional conduct, and a disciplinary hearing by the College. If found guilty, the member could be subject to various penalties, including loss of their practice permit.

JILL: I think those are all pretty good reasons as to why learning about jurisprudence is a good idea.

CARLOS: I agree!
1.4 Goal & objectives

Goal and Objectives

Goal:
Legal / regulatory environment

Objectives:
- Regulation of LPNs
- Scope of Practice
- Professional accountability and responsibility
- Jurisprudence exam

Narration

CARLOS: Okay, now that we have agreed that a knowledge of jurisprudence is important, what do we want this Study Guide to do?

JILL: The overall goal of this Jurisprudence Study Guide is to provide regulated LPNs and applicants to the LPN profession in Alberta with information about the legislation and regulatory requirements that serve as the framework for their professional practice.

CARLOS: I assume that the objectives are to explain how LPNs are regulated in Alberta.

JILL: Yes, in addition to that, we will discuss the LPN scope of practice, and as well as their professional accountability and responsibilities.

CARLOS: And the last objective is to help LPNs pass the Jurisprudence exam.

JILL: Oh yes, we can’t forget about the exam!
1.5 Jurisprudence

Jurisprudence Components
Legal and regulatory environment includes:
- Health Professions Act
- LPN Regulation
- CLPNA Bylaws
- College Policies
- Standards of Practice
- Code of Ethics
- Other provincial / federal acts

Narration

CARLOS: Jill, there are so many different legislative and regulatory aspects affecting LPN professional practice. Maybe we should spend some time briefly reviewing the different legal requirements, what they are, and how they are related to each other.

JILL: That’s a good idea Carlos. Let’s start at the top with the Health Professions Act or HPA. Regulation of health professions in Canada occurs at a provincial level, with each province having its own governing legislation. In Alberta, the governing legislation for most regulated health professions is the HPA. Under the HPA, health professions are organized into regulatory bodies called “colleges”.

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta, or CLPNA, is the regulatory body for the LPN profession in Alberta. This Act sets out the powers, duties and responsibilities of the College.

CARLOS: So the Health Professions Act provides the overall framework and authority for CLPNA to regulate its members. What does the LPN Regulation do?

JILL: Regulations are approved by the provincial government and describe how the College applies the Health Professions Act to the practice of the profession. The Regulation deals with such matters as member registers and registration, restricted activities, continuing competence and practice permits, reinstatement, titles and the information that must be collected and kept on each regulated member.

CARLOS: Where do CLPNA’s Bylaws and the College’s Policies fit in?
**JILL:** The Bylaws are a further application of the *Health Professions Act* and *Regulation*, stating how the College will operate on a day-to-day basis. Under the *Health Professions Act*, the Council of a College may establish and approve bylaws.

Policies are yet a further extension of that, stating the principles or rules developed and approved by the College to support achievement of its legislated mandate and strategic goals.

**CARLOS:** What about the *Standards of Practice* and *Code of Ethics*?

**JILL:** The key governing documents we have discussed so far are primarily related to College governance. The two documents you just mentioned – *Standards of Practice* and the *Code of Ethics* – provide a framework for regulated members in conducting their professional practice.

The *Standards of Practice* prescribe the minimum standards for LPN practice. As a self-regulated, autonomous professional, each regulated member of the College is accountable for practicing in accordance with the *Standards of Practice*, regardless of their role, practice area or practice setting.

The *Code of Ethics* is a set of guidelines and principles that guide the conduct of LPNs. Specifically, this document outlines the ethical behaviours and conduct that regulated members are expected to follow.

**JILL:** I should also mention that the *Standards of Practice* and *Code of Ethics* require review and approval by the Government of Alberta. These cannot be changed unless consultation and approval is obtained from both the regulated members and the government. In contrast, the College Bylaws and Policies are the responsibility of Council and are not subject to government review or approval.

**CARLOS:** I see that we’ll be discussing the *Health Professions Act*, *Standards of Practice* and *Code of Ethics* documents, as well as the *College Bylaws* in greater detail in the remaining modules.

**JILL:** Yes, we will.
1.6 Contents

Study Guide Contents

Five modules to cover the following content:

1. Introduction and Overview
2. Regulation of LPNs – Part I
3. Regulation of LPNs – Part II
4. Scope of Practice
5. Professional Accountability

Click on the ? to see the topics for each Module. Click NEXT to continue.

Narration

JILL: Here is a list of the five learning modules in the Jurisprudence Study Guide. Carlos, let’s describe the contents of each module together. You start.

CARLOS: Sure. Module 1 is the Introduction … which is what we are doing now.

JILL: And Module 2 is about regulation of LPNs in Alberta. The topics that will be covered include: self-regulation, the function of the CLPNA, College Bylaws, legislation, code of ethics, and standards of practice.

CARLOS: Module 3 continues with regulation of LPNs. The topics include: registration, continuing competence and the conduct process.

JILL: Module 4 is about scope of practice. We will talk about LPN scope of practice, restricted activities, and supervision and delegation.

CARLOS: And, finally in Module 5, we will discuss professional accountability and responsibility, and briefly highlight other applicable provincial and federal legislation that may affect LPN practice.

A list of topics in each module can be seen by clicking on the question mark icon in front of it. When done viewing the topics, click on the NEXT button to continue with this presentation.
1.7 Components

**Study Guide Components**

A variety of learning approaches including:
- narrated video presentations
- module quizzes
- handouts & notes
- links to documents
- interactive activities
- other resources

**Narration**

**CARLOS**: Jill ... there IS more to this jurisprudence course than just having LPNs listen to you and me, isn’t there?

**JILL**: Yes there is, Carlos. In addition to our narrated video presentations, there will be a short quiz at the end of each module to assess their understanding of the topics covered. Handouts for each module make it easier to follow along, or to learn offline. On every slide, there is a Resources Tab with links to the original documents being discussed in the course. To make things a bit more interesting, there are also some interactive exercises.

**CARLOS**: Great! It appears that this course has a variety of approaches to learn about jurisprudence. Good thing ... I don’t want to feel solely responsible for anyone’s learning success. (Chuckles)

**JILL**: Me neither!
1.8 Learning tips

**Tips for Effective Learning**

To get the most from this Study Guide:

- use player controls
- print out handouts
- read the relevant documents
- pace yourself
- do quizzes and activities
- repeat, review and refresh

**Narration**

**JILL**: To conclude this Introduction, here are some suggestions about ways to get the most from this Study Guide. Our first recommendation is to use the player controls smartly. You can *Pause* a slide, *Replay* it, or use the menu to go directly to another slide. The player features give you total control over the pace and direction of your learning! Take our one-minute tutorial to familiarize yourself with the player controls.

**CARLOS**: Our second suggestion is that BEFORE you view a video, print out the handout for that module. The handout provides you with a copy of the slides and our narration. This makes it easier for you to follow along. Remember you can *Pause* the presentation at any time, if you want to review what we said, or to make notes.

**JILL**: You must read and know the key documents related to regulating the Licensed Practical Nurse profession in Alberta. On each slide, there is a Resources Tab with links to legislation and jurisprudence documents. There are also direct links to the relevant sections of documents on many of the slides. It doesn’t get any easier than that!

**CARLOS**: There is a lot of information in this Study Guide! Do not try to learn it all at one sitting. We learn better, and remember more, if we pace ourselves. Being online, this Study Guide and its components are available at any time and at any location where there is an Internet connection. If you are using a tablet or smart phone, you can download the videos and online quizzes to work on them without being connected to the Internet. With so many options, you can learn at your own convenience and at a pace that is most comfortable for you.
**JILL:** You will learn more successfully if you do more than just listen to us! Be sure to do the quizzes and interactive activities we have included in this Study Guide. They are fun, engaging and will help you learn better and remember more!

Finally, unless you are a jurisprudence expert, you will need to continue your learning. So we strongly recommend that you periodically return to repeat parts of this Study Guide. Review will be especially useful in those areas where you are unclear as to what the rules are. Do the module quizzes periodically to assess your knowledge.

**CARLOS:** Hey Jill. Those are some pretty good tips!

**JILL:** Yes, they are. I hope that people will keep them in mind as they work through this Jurisprudence Study Guide.
1.9 Summary

Summary
- Definition of jurisprudence
- Importance of jurisprudence
- Purpose and scope
- Modules and topics
- Learning components
- Learning tips

Narration

JILL: This brings us to the end of this presentation. Carlos, why don’t you briefly summarize what we covered in this Introduction?

CARLOS: Sure, I would be happy to do that. We started out by discussing what jurisprudence is, and why knowledge of jurisprudence is important for LPNs. We then explained the purpose and scope of this Study Guide.

We discussed the goal and objectives. We looked at the regulatory environment, its components, and how they are related to each other. We described the modules, topics in each module, and the various learning components. We ended by providing some suggestions on how to get the most from this Study Guide.

Did I miss anything?

JILL: No, you summarized this module very well.
1.10 Questions

Questions?

Questions, concerns and suggestions regarding this Jurisprudence Study Guide and Exam should be directed to the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (CLPNA).

Narration

JILL: Before we go we should let LPNs know who to contact if they want more information about this Jurisprudence Study Guide or about the Jurisprudence Exam.

CARLOS: Sure, here is the contact information for the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta.

JILL: Great! Carlos and I will see you again shortly. Goodbye!

CARLOS: Bye!
1.11 The End

Narration

No narration, only theme music.