

## Guidance for Life Preserving Services During Strike Action, 2021

The provision of Life Preserving Services (LPS) during strike action is mandated in the Employment Relations Act 2000 Code of good faith for public health sector schedule. NZNO assures the public that patient safety and care is paramount at all times during the lead up and during strike action. At this time NZNO:

- > Can **only** provide guidance
- > **Cannot provide** an exhaustive list of what you should and should not do as a life preserving services responder

Additionally, it is the responsibility of each health professional to use their professional judgement, critical thinking and clinical reasoning skills to determine what life preserving care must be provided.

### What does LPS mean?

- a) Crisis intervention for the preservation of life.
- b) [Nursing/midwifery] care required for therapeutic services without which life would be jeopardised.
- c) [Nursing/midwifery] involvement necessary for urgent diagnostic procedures required to obtain information on potentially life-threatening conditions.
- d) crisis intervention for the prevention of permanent disability
- e) care required for therapeutic services without which permanent disability would occur.
- f) urgent diagnostic procedures required to obtain information on conditions that could potentially lead to permanent disability.

### LPS occur as an outcome of nursing assessment and may include:

- > The delivery of nursing/midwifery services to a reduced patient population:
  - Provision of nursing/midwifery care that requires specialty knowledge and skills of practice which cannot be provided safely by other staff available through contingency planning, particularly for those patients unable to care for themselves.
  - Administration of prescribed medicines or treatments to preserve life or prevent permanent disability.
  - Speciality nursing/midwifery assessment of patients including vital signs monitoring and risk assessment as indicated by clinical condition.
  - Delegation of care to appropriate staff available through contingency planning under the Nursing Council of New Zealand guidance for delegation.
  - Notification of risk or referral for urgent care by other staff members and emergency clinical response if required.
  - Documentation of actions under the notation – Strike Conditions – Note: *LPS in Action* must be included in clinical care progress notes.

## What does this mean in practice?

- > LPS, as with Nursing care, is NOT about tasks.
- > Life preserving services will vary depending on the area you work in.
- > The most important thing is to ensure you assess each situation and individual to decide whether not acting could endanger life or place the patient at serious risk of permanent harm or disability.
- > **IF** you decide this is the case, act and escalate to other health professionals as appropriate.

## References:

Employment relations Act. (2000). Schedule 1B Code of good faith for public health sector, inserted, on 1 December 2004, by section 69 of the Employment Relations Amendment Act (No 2) 2004 (2004 No 86).<https://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2000/0024/46.0/DLM61726.html>

International Council of Nurses. (2010). Guidelines on Essential Services During Labour Conflict. Switzerland: Author.

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### **Mission statement**

NZNO is committed to the representation of members and the promotion of nursing and midwifery. NZNO embraces Te Tiriti o Waitangi and works to improve the health status of all peoples of Aotearoa/ New Zealand through participation in health and social policy development.

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