

**New LNCs: The thing you fear
most may be the easiest thing
you'll do**

LNctips®

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New LNCs often believe that reviewing their first case will be the hardest part of becoming an LNC. They approach those first medical records with a mix of anxiety, anticipation, and trepidation. It's completely normal, but the truth is that the things you're most worried about are actually the things you're already prepared to do.

Here's what usually runs through a new LNC's mind:

- **Finding medical or nursing errors.** In reality, this part is a snap. Think of all the times you caught documentation issues or care concerns from the previous shift. Nurses are trained to recognize when something doesn't line up. That skill transfers directly into LNC work.
- **Identifying damages.** Again, easier than you think. You've witnessed patients deteriorate, decline, or experience complications. You already understand what harm looks like and how it develops.
- **Understanding causation.** This is the part that *feels* hardest, not because you can't do it, but because it's new. Causation is the link between the error and the damages. As you know, not all errors result in harm to the patient. In medical malpractice, the error must cause the damages. Understanding causation is where clinical insight meets legal reasoning. And like any new skill, it becomes clearer with practice and exposure to different types of cases.

Here's the part most new LNCs don't realize: You're not starting from zero. You're building on years of clinical pattern recognition, critical thinking, and real-world experience. You already know when documentation feels "off." Legal training simply gives that instinct direction so you can interpret those moments clearly, even on your first case.

Your first case won't be perfect. No one's is. But you'll be surprised by how much you already know, and how quickly the structure of LNC work starts to make sense.



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