

Bridging Two Worlds: Medicine and Law for New LNCs

LNctips®

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Medicine and Law share patients, but almost nothing else, and that's where LNCs come in. New LNCs quickly discover that the two systems operate on **different assumptions, priorities, and rhythms**. Understanding those differences is essential to navigating your role with confidence.

In Medicine, patients enter the system at birth, leave at death, and interact with providers in between.

Some never encounter Law, but those who do enter a **structured system** that begins when a case is screened and ends when it closes. As an LNC, you'll work with attorneys on **specific cases**, not directly with plaintiffs or defendants.

Medicine is collegial. Everyone works together for the best patient outcome.

Law is adversarial. Two sides compete, and one wins. As an LNC, you'll help your attorney achieve the **best outcome for their client**.

Communication in Medicine involves the entire healthcare team, often dozens of people.

Communication in Law varies widely. Some attorneys work solo or with minimal staff. You'll need to identify how your attorney prefers to communicate, verbally or in writing, frequently or briefly, and take initiative when needed.

Medicine is contemporaneous; Law is retrospective.

Medicine treats patients as events unfold. Law reviews what already happened. You'll know the outcome but must evaluate care based on **standards at the time of treatment**.

Medicine's drama is real such as births, trauma, and death.

Law's drama is strategic and used to influence witnesses or juries. LNCs help prepare experts and witnesses by explaining these dynamics.

Understanding how Medicine and Law differ helps LNCs **bridge the gap between the two**.

