

PN Exam Transition Work Group Meeting Minutes: March 19, 2021

Attendees

Tania Pynn, Silvana MacDonald, Katie Dilworth, Donna Rawlin, Angela Smith, Erin Tilley, Sushma Khemani

Regrets

Sandra DeLuca, June Mac-Donald Jenkins, Lise Bonin, Wendy Ellis

Welcome and introductions

Everyone was thanked for attending the meeting.

Pandemic check-in

Participants shared that this is a busy time of year and COVID-19 and the new PSW initiative have added to the complexity. Second-year students have been allowed to continue in their placements. However, COVID-related online courses, adapted courses and long-term care placements remain a challenge. Participants mentioned students are getting used to writing high-stakes high-stress exams virtually, which is the “new normal.”

Field testing

Phase 2 field testing began in March. This testing helps to ensure only questions determined to be a fair test of the knowledge, skill and judgement needed by RPNs entering practice will become part of the REx-PN™. The testing is run by NCSBN via remote/virtual, with a third-party providing item security. French-language field testing has been planned for the same time frame. Four hundred students are needed to complete this phase (from BC and ON combined).

Thank you to all PN programs and students who have or will participate by the end of April. Please encourage your students who have opted in to schedule their test.

Academic webinars

PN faculty can now sign up for academic webinars about how to create CAT (Computerized Adaptive Testing) exam questions like those to be used in the REx-PN. Webinar dates are April 20, 21, 27, or 29, as well as May 11 or 17. The link to sign up is [here](#), or is also available in the March REx-PN newsletter CNO sent to all PN programs. Please encourage your faculty to sign up as soon as possible. If a registrant is unable to attend, please ask them to cancel as soon as possible. Inform NCSBN if sessions are full and you are unable to register. If you have any questions, please continue to contact Donna Rawlin at drawlin@cnomail.org.

Panel recruitment

NCSBN is hosting another Item Review Panel from April 13–16. This panel will review potential questions to ensure they reflect RPN entry-level practice in Ontario and BC. Panel members from both provinces have been recruited.

A Sensitivity Panel is planned for May 4–7. This panel represents diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and reviews items for language, possible stereotypes, assumptions, and inflammatory material. Working group members were pleased to see this diversity and sensitivity being addressed as part of the exam development process.

Another Item Review Panel is planned for June 15–16, 2021. Novice RPNs, nurses and faculty who teach or work with RPNs in clinical practice are needed. Recruitment has started, and anyone interested in participating can check [our website](#) or contact Donna Rawlin at drawlin@cnomail.org for more information.

In Fall 2021, another Item Writing Panel will convene. CNO continues to recruit Practical Nursing faculty to participate with these panels. Any interested faculty are encouraged to check [our website](#) or contact Donna Rawlin at drawlin@cnomail.org for more information.

Feedback from survey to educators

The survey received good response from educators in both Ontario and B.C. Sixty-eight responded from Ontario from approximately 20 different Ontario PN schools, including the two bilingual schools. Approximately two-thirds of Ontario respondents were educators and one-third identified as nurse administrators. Helpful information was received, including: most participants “felt somewhat informed” about the REx-PN; and the majority have obtained exam information from CNO emails and newsletter updates. The group expressed interest in hearing feedback later in the year.

PN exam reports

PN exam reports will change with the new exam. NCSBN has offered to create a custom report for PN educators. The group discussed what information is most desired by academic administrators from reports. Ideas expressed included: student performance related to the [REx-PN Test Plan](#) categories; overall pass/fail rate; first and subsequent exam attempts; reports by site and program; and, comparison with other schools across Ontario. Further consultation is planned to determine what information would be most helpful in a customized report.

Next meeting

Friday, April 16, 2021, 11 a.m. – noon