

REx-PN EXAM NEWS

The latest on the Regulatory Exam – Practical Nurse

Providing you with the latest information about the new regulatory exam for RPN applicants, the REx-PN.



Sign up for a workshop to learn to write CAT-style questions

Join a spring virtual workshop to become familiar with how to write CAT (computerized adaptive testing) exam questions like those to be used in the REx-PN. You'll gain hands-on experience.

Space is limited. We recommend that each nursing program have representatives join who in turn can share their learnings with others unable to attend.

Select from one of six webinar dates:

Tues., April 20 Noon – 2 p.m.

Wed., April 21 Noon – 2 p.m.

Tues., April 27 2 – 4 p.m.

Thur., April 29 2 – 4 p.m.

Tues., May 11 Noon – 2 p.m.

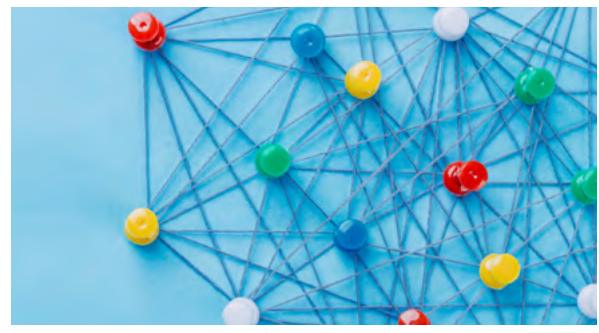
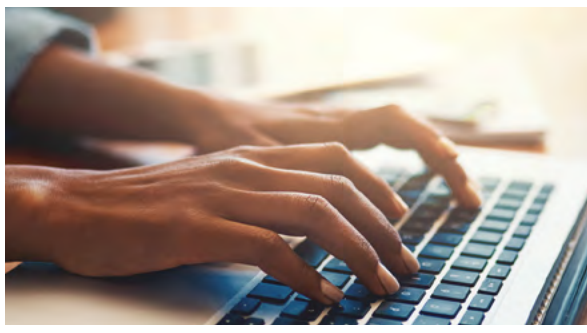
Mon., May 17 Noon – 2 p.m.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Field testing of questions continues

Field testing REx-PN questions with students helps 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. We're grateful to you and to the students across Ontario's PN nursing programs who have helped to date. Several schools have offered to help with further testing this spring, and we've reached out for help with testing questions in French.

Practical Nursing programs in Ontario and B.C. are pretesting the exam items on student volunteers who are preparing to graduate. The results are being used to determine the difficulty level for each question, which is a critical feature of a CAT (computerized adaptive testing) exam. In addition, questions are being flagged if they need to be revised and retested or possibly removed from the bank of questions. Once the REx-PN is implemented in 2022, all new questions developed will be tested on the exam itself by those writing the REx-PN, although these pretest question will not count in the candidate's score.



"Look and feel" practice exam in the works

A practice exam is in development that will help students prepare to write the REx-PN by providing the look and feel of this CAT-style exam. The English and French versions of the practice exam are expected to be ready this summer.

Sensitivity panel to review REx-PN questions

To help ensure REx-PN questions are free of unintentional bias that could affect exam scoring, they will all be assessed by a Canadian Sensitivity Review Panel. The purpose of this review is to identify any words or phrases that might be viewed as insensitive, stereotypical or inflammatory to a specific group of people or populations, and that may therefore interfere with accurate exam measurement.

The Sensitivity panel will be made up of laypersons with no health care background, who represent a variety of cultures, ethnicities, age ranges and genders. The panel will also include one nurse who will explain medical terminology to the group to ensure they understand the questions.

Answers to your questions

What will the REx-PN test?

The REx-PN will not test everything that is taught during a Practical Nursing program. Rather, it will test entry-level skills, knowledge and judgment — what nurses need to know to provide safe care at the beginning of their careers. The REx-PN Test Plan describes what will be tested.

What is the REx-PN Test Plan, and how can I and students use it?

The REx-PN Test Plan (available in English and French) provides an excellent guide for candidates preparing to write the exam. It's a concise summary of the content areas and scope of what will be tested on the exam, and also includes: definitions for each Client Needs category; nursing activity statements; sample REx-PN questions; and, information on the format of the exam and how it will be scored.

As an educator, you can gain familiarity with the Test Plan and share the information with your students. You can use the Test Plan along with other available resources to write CAT-style exam questions to help prepare your students for this style of exam, which they may not have experienced before.

For the REx-PN, students will need to memorize normal lab values (something they don't currently have to do for the CPNRE). What will they need to know?

The lab values an exam writer is expected to know are located on page 36 of the REx-PN Test Plan, and include the lab values for ABGs (pH, PO₂, PCO₂, SaO₂, HCO₃), BUN, cholesterol (total), creatinine, glucose, glycosylated hemoglobin (HgbA1C), hematocrit, hemoglobin, INR, platelets, potassium, PT, PTT & APTT, sodium, and WBC. All other values will be provided.

We've recently updated the REx-PN Frequently Asked Questions section on our website. Take a look here:

[CNO REX-PN FAQs](#)

[NCSBN: REX-PN](#)

