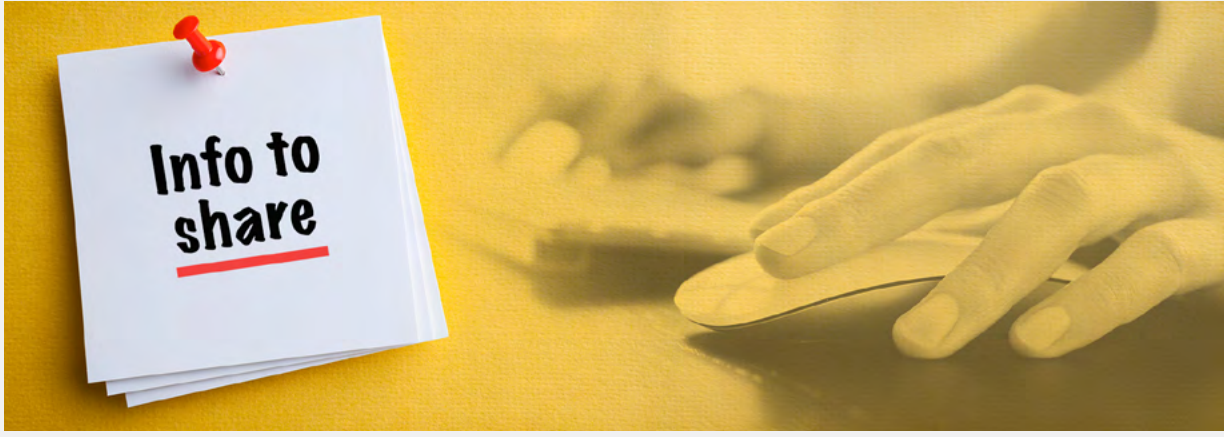# REx-PN EXAM NEWS

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.

No limit on writes on REx-PN™

Your students will appreciate hearing about three benefits of the new REx-PN: there will be no limit on the number of times they can write the exam, it will be available to write at any time, and they will receive feedback more quickly on how they did. Our goal is that they will be able to start work sooner.

No limit on writes

Writers of the current CPNRE exam are limited to three attempts to pass the exam. Because the REx-PN will be a computerized adaptive test (CAT exam), it allows for no limit on the number of times a writer can attempt it. The system knows if a writer is retaking the exam and supplies them with a set of questions different from those the writer had in previous attempts. Regardless of the number of attempts, the only way a person will successfully pass the REx-PN is if they are able to show they have the knowledge, skill and judgment to practice safely as an entry-level RPN.

Some of your students graduating this year and who will be writing the CPNRE before the end of 2021 may be wondering what will happen if they fail the CPNRE on their third attempt. Please advise them that CNO will offer to keep their application open so they can write the REx-PN once it is implemented in January 2022. They can find additional information on their options here.

Accessible

The REx-PN will be available to write at any time in permanent and temporary centres of the exam provider, Pearson Vue. REx-PN writers will have to wait a minimum of 60 days between attempts, which equates to a maximum of six attempts per year.

Fast feedback

REx-PN exam writers will usually have their results within two business days after writing. If a writer is not successful on their exam, CNO will send them a Candidate's Performance Report (CPR) that will provide information about how they did in each section of the exam, indicating whether they performed above, near or below the passing standard to help them prepare for a future exam write.

FOR EDUCATORS ONLY: Learn to create CAT-style questions

A reminder that during April and May, webinars will be held to help you learn to write Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT) questions for use in your own programs.

Space is limited, so if you have signed-up but can't attend, please free up the space so another person can attend. If your preferred time is not available, check the registration site regularly to see if a spot has come available.

A REMINDER: This course is for PN educators only. It is not for students or exam writers.

REGISTER HERE

Ensuring you have the info you need

Thank you to all who answered our survey on how we can support you over the next year. Here's what to watch for to help you and your students prepare:

Webinars: Many of you have already signed up for one of the spring CAT item writing webinars.

Chances to meet: We'll be holding REx-PN Q&A sessions in the autumn for educators. However, we are available if you would like us to set up a group meeting with your program team to discuss the REx-PN; you can email us anytime at RExPN@cnomail.org.

Student resources: During 2021, we'll be providing REx-PN fact sheets you can share with your students, offering Q&A sessions for students, and providing a link to the "look and feel" exam as well as to other resources to help them prepare to write the REx-PN.

Video to help explain a CAT exam

The REx-PN will use a Computerized Adaptive Testing (CAT) format. The system determines the level of difficulty of the question it presents to the writer based on how well they responded to the preceding question. For example, if a writer responded correctly to a question of medium difficulty, the next question presented will be slightly more difficult. A candidate must achieve a certain ability level (passing standard) on the exam to pass.

This video provides you with more information about the CAT format of the REx-PN. Please share with your students.

Answers to your questions

How many questions will the REx-PN have?

The number of questions an exam writer will receive will range from a minimum of 90 to a maximum of 150. Of those, 30 questions are being pretested for possible inclusion on future exams and will not count in the exam writer's score. The remaining 60 to 120 questions will count in the exam writer's score, with the actual number of questions they receive depending on how long it takes the exam's algorithm to determine whether the writer is consistently performing above or below passing level.

Pre-testing is required to ensure CAT exams function properly. By administering pretest items to a large sample of REx-PN writers, the degree of difficulty of each question can be determined. The writer will not be able to distinguish between an unscored pretest question and a scored question on the REx-PN, so exam writers should give each question their best effort.

Will the REx-PN include questions specifically about Canadian health care systems or legislation?

No. The REx-PN will not test knowledge of health care systems, history, cultural issues, or government policy and laws. Such items vary by province and territory in Canada. While nurses must know about the health care system they work in, including its legislation, testing for that knowledge is not the purpose of the REx-PN.

Applicants to CNO write a Jurisprudence Exam that tests for this knowledge.

You can find more REx-PN Frequently Asked Questions on our website. Take a look here:

CNO REX-PN FAQS   **NCSBN: REx-PN**

REx-PN
Regulatory Exam – Practical Nurse

Who to contact
We are always available to answer your questions.
You can reach out to us at RExPN@cnomail.org