

# 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.



## Prep resources being developed for students

Your students may be asking you about how they can prepare to write the REx-PN. It's important to remind them that the REx-PN will test competencies nurses need at the beginning of their careers, which are competencies covered in your program's curriculum. As the REx-PN is a Computerized Adaptive Test (CAT), they may also benefit from pre-exposure to this type of testing.

### Resources already available

- REx-PN Test Plan: contains detailed information about the content areas covered, testing requirements, and sample exam items and scenarios (in [English](#) and [French](#))
- Computerized Adaptive Test (CAT) educational video (in [English](#) and [French](#))

### Resources in development (all will be available in English and French)

- REx-PN Practice Exam: simulates the look and feel of the CAT-style questions in the REx-PN – coming Summer 2021
- Fact Sheets: provide high-level details on the exam, how to prepare and what to expect when writing – coming Summer to Autumn 2021
- REx-PN Candidate Bulletin: A detailed guide from before to after writing the REx-PN, including contact information, how to register, rules, and results processing – coming Autumn 2021



## Thanks for your help with field testing!

We are grateful to everyone who helped us complete the testing of REx-PN questions — educators, admin staff and hundreds of students across Ontario. The questions have been tested in both English and French. Thanks to your efforts, the number of completed tests provides enough data to reliably calibrate the estimated difficulty/ability level of the exam questions.

We know this has been a busy time for everyone and we are grateful for your support in helping us reach this important milestone in developing an exam that will be a fair and reliable test.

## UPDATES: French lexicon and Translation Review Panel

Thank you to all the Francophone nurses, educators and clinicians who continue to play a vital role in the development of the REx-PN.

**French lexicon:** To ensure effective and consistent translation of REx-PN questions, translators apply a French style guide. Ontario French nurse educators informed the terms in the guide to ensure each reflects what is common and current in Ontario practice settings. In early Autumn 2021, we will provide you with a link to this lexicon. The list will continue to be refined during the ongoing translation of items, based on recommendations from French-speaking Ontario nurses.

**Translation Review Panel:** We're currently putting together a Translation Review Panel of Ontario nurses with Canadian French-English proficiency and who are familiar with RPN entry-to-practice competencies. This group will assess the language and contextual principles of translated REx-PN questions to ensure the translation is equivalent to the original question in English. French-speaking nurses and clinicians have also participated in panels that write and review the original questions. If you would like to put your name forward to participate in this panel, please visit our [webpage](#) for more information.

## Answers to your questions

**Will the exam use generic and trade name medications in questions? Will there be a need-to-know list of drugs?**

At this time, the REx-PN will reflect, on most occasions, the use of generic medication names only. The use of the medication generic name is more consistent, while a brand/trade medication name may vary. Some items may refer to general classifications of medications. A list of medications that are on the exam will not be provided.

**Will there be a default practice setting for the questions?**

No. If needed to answer the question, a relevant practice setting will be stated.

**How much time will an exam writer have to answer each question?**

While there will be a time limit of 4 hours to complete the overall exam, no time limit will be set per question. On similar exams, candidates generally take 60 – 90 seconds per question. Writers should not feel the need to rush. For more information on the time limit, please see the section "Examination Length" in the REx-PN Test Plan for more information.

**You can find more REx-PN frequently asked questions here:**

[CNO REX-PN FAQs](#)

[NCSBN: REx-PN](#)

