

New partnership brings computer-based RN Exam to Canada



THE STANDARD OF CARE.

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The College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) is pleased to announce that the National Council of State Boards of Nursing has been selected to partner in the development of a state-of-the-art, computer-adaptive RN entry exam. The goal is to introduce the new exam in 2015.

In December, CNO and nine other Canadian RN regulators completed a comprehensive search for an exam provider. The search included a detailed RFP process and an independent assessment of the final proposals by a Canadian psychometric expert.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing offered the best option and a proven ability to meet the needs and expectations of the Canadian regulators.

An important role for Canadian regulators is ensuring RN candidates meet the entry to practice competencies and are qualified to provide safe and ethical care. The entry to practice examination is a critical tool in this assessment.

To ensure the exam meets Canadian requirements, the 10 regulators will participate in oversight of the exam development and administration. This will include a thorough study of RN practice and entry competencies in Canada and input from Canadian nursing experts and practising nurses. There will be opportunities for nurse educators and students to learn about the new exam and for RNs to participate in its development.

The end result will be a new RN entry exam that offers a fair and accurate assessment of a candidate's readiness to practise nursing in Canada. Currently, RN candidates write a paper and pen exam. This exam continues to be a valid assessment of their abilities.

However, the new exam will have computer features that make it affordable, accessible year-round, and provide exam results within 48 hours leading to timely registration of nursing candidates.

"I am confident in the ability of this partnership to further the goal of public protection and contribute to regulatory excellence in Canada," says Anne Coghlan, Executive Director and CEO of CNO.

The College of Nurses of Ontario is the regulatory body for the province's 150,000 Registered Nurses, Registered Practical Nurses and Nurse Practitioners. Its mission is to regulate nursing in the public interest.

CNO will continue to provide information on the new RN entry exam as it is developed.

FAQs about the new exam are available at www.cno.org.

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