Important dates

Dec. 1, 2021: REx-PN registration opens
Jan. 4, 2022: REx-PN writes begin

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.

Passing standard now set for exam

The REx-PN is a computerized adaptive test (CAT) designed to measure the writer's ability — their entry-level nursing knowledge, skill and judgement. Every time a writer answers a question on the exam, the computer re-estimates their ability based on all previous answers and the difficulty of those questions. The computer's goal is to get as much information as possible about the writer's ability to provide safe care; with each question answered, the computer's estimate of the writer's ability becomes more precise.
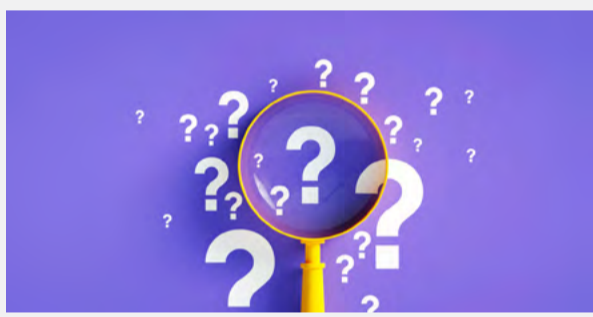
A writer passes the exam when the computer determines they are above the passing standard — a cut point that marks the minimum ability level required to practice nursing safely and effectively as an entry-level RPN in today's health care environment.

To learn more about the passing standard, including how it is determined, visit:

REX-PN PASSING STANDARD

Have questions? Let's meet one-on-one

As we quickly approach launch day for the REx-PN, we want to ensure that as a PN educator you have all the information you need. If you and other members of your PN program team would like to meet with us this fall, please reach out to us to set up a meeting date if you have not already done so. We will provide your team with an overview of the exam and answer any questions.

Update on third-party prep courses
We are aware of some third-party exam preparation courses being developed in English, and have heard that some schools are looking into the options of having such courses in French. As the regulator, we cannot be involved in the development or review of such educational materials and so cannot attest to their success in helping someone prepare to write the REx-PN.

Students may find prep courses helpful in preparing to write the exam, but the choice of what will help them prepare is theirs. While third-party vendors may develop and offer REx-PN preparation courses, it is important to know that they do not have access to the REx-PN question bank and students should use caution when investigating their options.

Preparatory resources for students are available on our website and through the exam provider, including the Test Plan (EN; FR), information about the CAT test format (EN; FR), and a set of practice tests (EN; FR). This prep material is based on the competencies being tested, and provides exposure to CAT-style questions.

Still time to register!

2021 NCSBN REx-PN Conference
The first Regulatory Exam – Practical Nurse (REx-PN) Conference is fast approaching, but there is still time to register. This Conference for PN nursing educators will provide an overview of the REx-PN. A variety of topics will be covered including the candidate registration process how items are developed, and how the passing standard is set. You'll also have the chance to ask questions about the REx-PN (click here to see the full agenda).

Date: Nov. 9, 2021

Time: 12 noon to 3:30 pm EST

Location: Virtual (details sent after registration)

REGISTER HERE

Answers to your questions

What will it cost to write the REx-PN?

Check the Application & Membership Fees page on CNO's website for the latest information on the fees for an RPN application and registration into the General Class.

Will those applying for registration in Ontario be able to write the CPNRE and the REx-PN?

The CPNRE will remain the registration exam for Practical Nurses in Ontario until the end of 2021. The final exam window for the CPNRE is Nov. 8 to Nov. 28, 2021, with registration for this exam window closing on Nov. 16, 2021. If the applicant passes the CPNRE by the end of 2021, it will count as them meeting the regulatory exam requirement, even if they have not completed the other requirements of their registration by that time.

On Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022, the REx-PN will become the registration exam for Ontario Practical Nurses, and the CPNRE will no longer be an option for Ontario applicants. Registration for the REx-PN will open on Dec. 1, 2021.* The REx-PN will be available to write at any time in permanent and temporary centres of the exam provider, Pearson Vue.

*For those writing the CPNRE in November, we recommend they wait to receive their CPNRE results in mid-December before registering to write the REx-PN. If they register for the REx-PN then learn they passed the CPNRE, they cannot get a refund from the exam provider for their REx-PN registration fee.

You can find answers to REx-PN frequently asked questions here:

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

Missed any previous newsletters?

These monthly newsletters contain a wealth of great info for you and your students. You can see them all here under the heading "REX-PN NEWSLETTER FOR EDUCATORS."

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