REx-PN™

COLLEGE OF NURSES OF ONTARIO
ORDRE DES INFIRMIÈRES ET INFIRMIERS DE L'ONTARIO

THE STANDARD OF CARE.

Fact Sheet 2: Available Resources

Preparing for the REx-PN

Click below to find out more

About

Along with other registration requirements, if you're registering with the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) as a practical nurse, you must successfully complete a registration exam. Beginning January 4, 2022, that exam will be the Registration Exam – Practical Nurse (REx-PN). This exam tests for the competencies — knowledge, skill and judgment — you will need at the beginning of your career. It helps ensure that all new nurses in Ontario are safe to practice.

Your education

If you're a graduate of an Ontario Practical Nursing program, your Ontario nursing education covers the competencies tested on the exam. Practical Nurse educators, clinicians and administrators from Ontario and British Columbia help with the ongoing development of the REx-PN, and hundreds of PN students from both provinces field-tested exam questions.

If you're a graduate from a nursing program outside of Ontario, CNO will assess your application to determine if you are eligible to write the REx-PN (read more about the education requirement here).

The following pages provide resources in addition to your education that will help you prepare to write the REx-PN.

IMPLEMENTED
Jan. 4, 2022

Test Plan

The REx-PN Test Plan describes what will be tested and the types of questions on the exam and includes some sample questions. It is designed to help you prepare for the exam, and is the same guide used by those who write and review the exam questions.

The Test Plan gives you details about the eight content areas covered on the exam, which are based on client needs, as follows:

Management of care

Safety and infection control

Health promotion and maintenance

Psychosocial integrity

Basic care and comfort

Pharmacological and parenteral therapies

Reduction of risk potential

Physiological adaptation

Effective January 2022

REx-PN™

Test Plan for the Regulatory Exam – Practical Nurse

NCSBN
Leading Regulatory Excellence

REx-PN
Regulatory Exam - Practical Nurse

What's not covered 🚫

The REx-PN tests for the competencies needed by a nurse starting in the profession (see **REx-PN Test Plan**).
It does not test all competencies needed over the course of a career, and while nurses must know about the health care system they work in, the REx-PN does not include questions about:
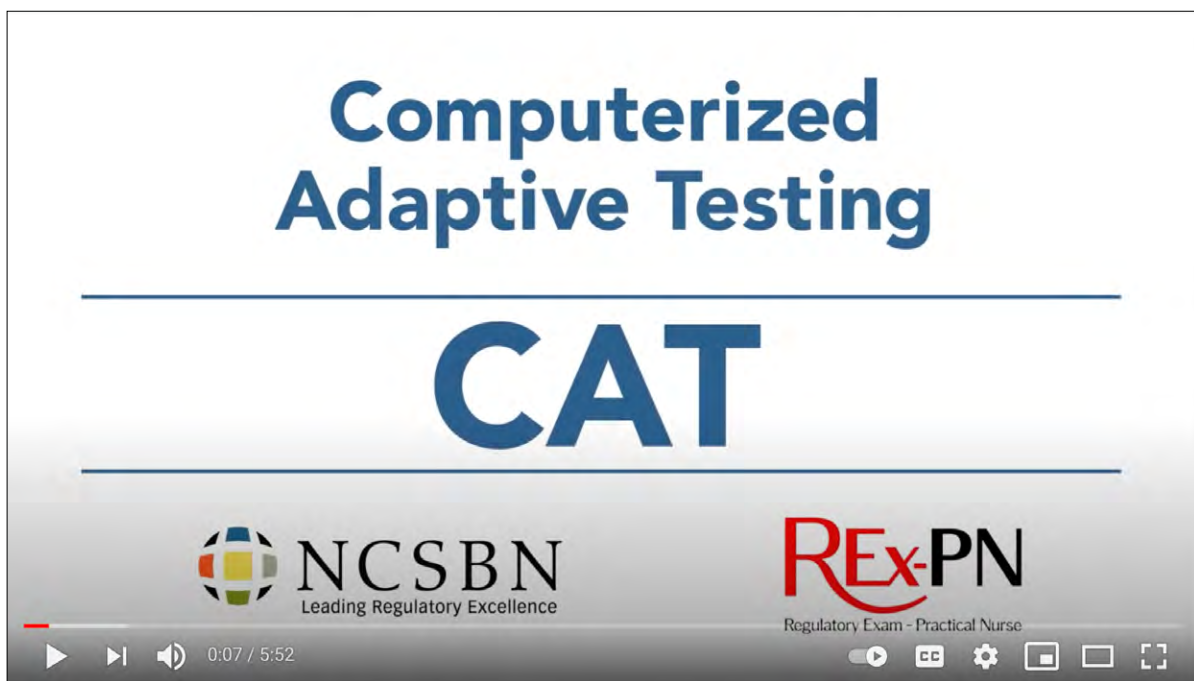
- history of health car"

- the Canadian/provincial health care system

- specific cultural issues

- Canadian/provincial laws and legislation (this is covered separately on the **Jurisprudence Exam**)

Computerized Adaptive Test (CAT)

The REx-PN uses Computerized Adaptive Testing (CAT) to measure your competence to perform safely and effectively as an entry-level RPN. The computer's goal is to get as much information as possible about your true ability level to provide safe nursing care.

Every time you answer a question on the exam, the computer re-estimates your ability to respond, based on all your previous answers and the difficulty of those questions. The computer then selects the next item, which you should have a 50% chance of answering correctly. This way, the next item should not be too easy or too hard. You should find each item challenging as each item is targeted to your previous response's difficulty level. With each item answered, the computer's estimate of your ability to provide safe nursing care becomes more precise.

This video explains why CAT is used for the REx-PN and how it works.

REx-PN Exam preview

125

Questions

English and French

$

Free

The exam preview allows you to review exam items similar to the REx-PN items you'll see on test day. The preview is a static exam that can be downloaded in English and French. The exam preview is not scored nor a predictor of whether you will pass or fail your actual REx-PN. The 125 items included in this preview will not appear on current or future exams. See the Computerized Adaptive Test (CAT) educational video and presentations, in English and French, for more details on how the actual exam is scored.

*You do not have to complete both practice exams at the same time, but they must be completed **within 45 days of purchase** after which you will lose access to them.

Tutorial

While most questions on the REx-PN are multiple choice, the exam also includes multiple response and fill-in-the-blank questions.

Multiple choice
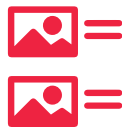
Multiple response

Fill in the blank
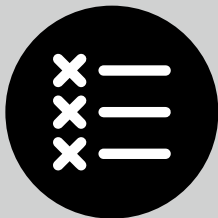
Some questions may also include

Exhibits

Graphics

The REx-PN **Candidate Tutorial** is designed to help you become familiar with the software used for the REx-PN and give you instructions on how to answer the different types of REx-PN exam questions.

Each exam writer receives a unique set of questions. As a result, the frequency and number of each question type will vary for each person.

Answering every question

When writing the REx-PN, you'll receive the questions one at a time. 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, writers generally take 60 – 90 seconds per question. You should not feel the need to rush. Due to how a CAT exam works, you must provide an answer to the current question before you'll be able to move to the next question.

Guessing

For more information on the time limit, please see the section "Examination Length" in the REx-PN Test Plan. There is no time limit for you to spend on each question, but, if you're unsure of the correct answer, consider all response options and provide your best answer. The computer won't let you proceed to the next question without providing an answer for the current one.

Third-party prep material

Your nursing education and the resources above will help you prepare for the REx-PN. Also, some people find third-party prep courses helpful. CNO is aware of some third-party prep courses being developed, but we cannot attest to their success in helping you prepare to write the REx-PN — the choice is yours as to what you will need to prepare.

No third party has access to the REx-PN question bank. **Be wary of any party claiming to have such access.**

As the regulator, CNO does not review third-party prep courses and cannot endorse them.

Additional information & resources

Health care terminology

Ontario and BC nurses, educators and clinicians review the exam questions to ensure they contain terminology that is understood and used by nurses across Canada. See page 46 of the REx-PN Test Plan for a list of terms and their meanings as used on the REx-PN and the lexicon of terms for those writing the French version of the exam.

Medication names

On most occasions, only generic medication names will be used. This use is more consistent, while a medication's brand/trade 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.

Lab values

The lab values you are expected to know are located on page 36 of the REx-PN Test Plan. All other values will be provided.

Measurement

Measurements are provided in metric units.

Using calculators and writing notes

An on-screen calculator and erasable note board/marker are available for your use within the testing environment.
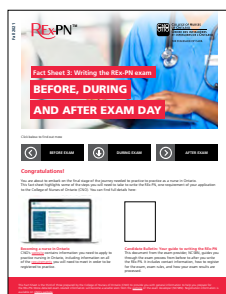
French version of exam

You can choose to write the REx-PN in either English or French, but you will not be able to toggle between both during one exam write.

A rigorous process is used to translate exam questions into French. Government-level standards are used to translate the questions; further, they apply a lexicon that was developed by French-speaking Ontario nurse educators. Translations are then reviewed by Canadian nurses who are fluent in French and English, and who work in bilingual health care settings or facilities.
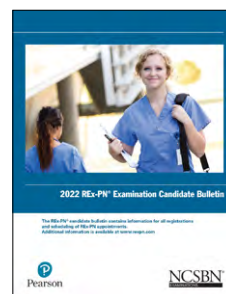

Fact Sheet 1: General Information
Gives you a general overview of the exam, including information about the purpose of the exam, what the content tests, the exam format, the number and types of questions, how a pass is determined, and the number of writes possible.

Fact Sheet 3: Writing the REx-PN
Learn about applying to CNO, registering to write the REx-PN, scheduling an exam date, and brief details on what to expect before and after the exam.

2022 REx-PN Examination Candidate Bulletin
Guides you through the exam process from before to after you write the REx-PN, including important contact information, details on how to register for the exam, exam rules, and how your results are processed.

Find more information in our Frequently Asked Questions sections on our websites: