



# INFORMATION FOR PRACTICAL NURSING GRADUATES IN BC

*Applying for Registration & the REx-PN*

# About BCCNM

**We protect the public through regulation of registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, psychiatric nurses, nurse practitioners and midwives.**

- Set requirements for registration
- Set standards of practice
- Review education programs in B.C.
- Address complaints about registrants

# Regulatory Exam – Practical Nurse (REx-PN) overview

- Introducing the REx-PN
- Computer-adaptive testing (CAT)
- How the REx-PN is different

# What is the REx-PN?

- Regulatory exams help regulators assess whether you meet the entry-level competencies required to practice safely.
- The Regulatory Exam – Practical Nurse (REx-PN) is a new regulatory exam
  - BCCNM and the College of Nurses of Ontario partnered with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) to develop it.
- On Jan. 4, 2022, the REx-PN will become the approved regulatory exam in B.C.
  - New graduates will be required to pass the exam before being eligible for practising LPN registration.
- The REx-PN is a computer-adaptive test (CAT).

# What is computer-adaptive testing (CAT)?

- Every time you answer a question, the computer re-estimates your ability to provide safe nursing care
  - Questions selected will be based on your previous answers and the difficulty of those questions.
  - You should find each question challenging, as they are targeted to your ability.
  - No two tests are the same.
  - With every question you answer, the computer's estimate of your ability becomes more precise.
- The test ends when the computer determines if you meet the minimum level of ability required for safe entry-level nursing (the passing standard).
- Watch NCSBN's CAT video for more details (6 mins)
  - <https://www.rexpn.com/computerized-adaptive-testing.htm>

# How is the REx-PN different?

- There is no set number of questions
  - You'll answer between 90-150 questions. The exam will continue until the computer determines if you meet the passing standard (maximum of 4 hours).
  - The number of questions asked does not indicate whether you pass or fail.
- Questions will use a variety of formats
  - Question will include multiple choice, multiple response, fill-in-the-blank, exhibits and graphics.
  - On-screen calculator will be provided
  - You'll need to memorize normal lab values ([check p. 36 in the Test Plan for a list](#))
- You will not be able to skip or return to questions
- Results are pass/fail, rather than a score or percentage

# How to apply

- Process overview
- Fees
- Application steps
- Provisional registration
- REx-PN registration and scheduling

# Process overview

STEP	TIMING	DETAILS
BC Grad application submission	6-8 weeks prior to program completion	<a href="#">Apply on BCCNM Website</a>
BCCNM updates application status	Email sent 4 weeks after submitting application	Status of application and instructions to register for the REx-PN with Pearson Vue
<b>BCCNM receives program transcripts from education program</b>		
Provisional registration granted (if applicable)	Processed within one week of application submission (if applicable).	Email sent includes link to pay BCCNM registration fee
Register for REx-PN	When ready to write within 6 months	<a href="http://rexpn.com/register.htm">rexpn.com/register.htm</a>
Schedule REx-PN	Upon receipt of authorization to test (ATT)	Sent by email from Pearson Vue
Exam Results	Up to 7 days after exam writing	Email from BCCNM
Practising Registration granted	Upon passing REx-PN	Email from BCCNM



# Fee summary

Fee type	Fee	Notes
REx-PN fee	\$350+GST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Per attempt, non-refundable</li><li>• Paid to Pearson Vue</li></ul>
BCCNM application fee	\$230+GST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paid when application submitted to BCCNM</li></ul>
BCCNM registration fee	\$514.80*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paid to BCCNM when provisional registration granted or upon successful completion of the REx-PN</li><li>• Pro-rated to start date of registration</li></ul>

\* 2022-23 practising LPN registration fee

# Applying for practising LPN registration

Before you apply for the REx-PN, you need to apply for practising registration.

## Step 1: Create a BCCNM account

- You can do this at <https://public.bccnp.ca/Account>

## Step 2: Get your identification documents notarized

- Two pieces of valid ID with current legal name.
- To find out which identification we will accept, check the [identification page](#) on our website.

## Step 3: Complete your application and pay the application fee.

- From your BCCNM account, click “apply”.
- You can apply for provisional registration and indicate if [accommodations](#) for the exam are needed.

# Provisional registration

- Provisional registration authorizes you to practice before you pass the REx-PN
  - Provisional registration is **not required** and is not needed to write the exam
  - Can be applied for on your practising LPN registration application
  - Granted up to a maximum of one year (no extensions)
  - Registration must be renewed during annual renewal in Feb/March
  - Will be cancelled after two unsuccessful exam attempts
  - Registration is automatically converted to practising registration after passing the REx-PN
- Granting provisional registration (if applicable)
  - After your program transcripts are submitted, BCCNM will review your application and grant provisional registration.
  - We'll send you an email to select your registration start date and pay your fee.

# REx-PN registration and scheduling

## Registering for the REx-PN

- Once your application is assessed (and transcripts submitted by education program) you're eligible to take the exam.
- We'll send instructions to register and pay for the REx-PN through the Pearson Vue website.

## Authorization to test (ATT)

- Pearson Vue will send you an authorization to test (ATT) with instructions to schedule your exam.
- The ATT is valid for six months. You must schedule and take the exam before the ATT expires.

## Exam dates and locations

- **Book early** to get your preferred time/location; test centres may fill up quickly
- The REx-PN is available year-round in Vancouver, Burnaby, Surrey and Victoria. Temporary locations are available; [check our website for dates and locations](#).

# Writing the REx-PN and next steps

- Preparing for the REx-PN
- REx-PN results and next steps
- Tips

# Preparing for the REx-PN: Resources

## BCCNM website

- The LPN exam section includes application instructions, resources, frequently asked questions and accommodation information.

## National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)

- The exam developer, NCSBN, has created a number of different resources and videos that you can use to prepare.
  - Candidate Bulletin: Information about registering for the REx-PN and scheduling your exam date.
  - REx-PN Test Plan: Detailed information on the content areas tested on the REx-PN.
  - REx-PN Practice exam: Two tests of 80 questions, available to purchase for \$150 USD.
  - REx-PN Candidate Rules: The requirements and rules to take the exam.

## BCNU New Nurse Assistance Fund

- Available to help BCNU members having difficulty becoming qualified to practice (*repeat writers only*).

# REx-PN results

You will get your exam results within one week of your test date.

- If you haven't received your results after seven days, please contact BCCNM.

**If you pass:** Your results email will include next steps in registration process

**If you fail**

- Within a week, a performance report and information on retaking the exam will be sent.
- If you hold provisional registration, you must inform your employer of your result.

**Retaking the REx-PN**

- There is no limit on the number of times you can write the REx-PN (open BCCNM application req'd).
- You must wait 60 days between attempts and will pay the exam fee for each attempt.
- After two unsuccessful attempts, your provisional registration will be cancelled.



# Application + REx-PN tips

Don't register with Pearson Vue unless you can write the exam within six months

- Once you register and you have authorization to test (ATT), you must write the exam before the ATT expires.
- If you want to write the exam in a temporary location, time your registration with Pearson Vue so that your ATT will align with the dates that location is available.

Need a testing accommodation? Apply to BCCNM 8 weeks before program completion

- Do not register with Pearson Vue until your request has been reviewed/approved by BCCNM.
- Learn more on the [accommodations page](#) of our website.



# Good Luck on the REx-PN and in the nursing Profession!

## Questions:

REx-PN:

[exams@bccnm.ca](mailto:exams@bccnm.ca)

BC Grad Application:

[register@bccnm.ca](mailto:register@bccnm.ca)