

REx-PN EXAM NEWS

The latest on the Regulatory Exam – Practical Nurse

Providing you with the latest information about the new regulatory exam for LPN applicants, the REx-PN.

Preparing for the REx-PN

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 already covered in your program's curriculum. Indeed, you and your students have everything you need to begin preparing to write the REx-PN when it's introduced in January 2022.



What's staying the same

The content being tested is not changing—which means you shouldn't be changing your curriculum or teaching strategies. If you have questions, we recommend you review the [Practice Analysis](#) to see how the exam content was validated.

What is changing

- The exam gauges the candidate's ability in real time, so a correct answer will result in a slightly more difficult question; an incorrect one, and the candidate will get a slightly easier question.

Watch the [CAT video](#) for a great overview of how this testing method works.

- Unlike traditional exams, students will not be able to skip questions and come back to them. Every question must be answered before going to the next question even if the writer is not sure of the correct answer. They should consider all response options and provide their

best answer in order to proceed to the next question.

It's a good idea to help your students practice this approach.

- Types of questions: while most questions on the REx-PN will be multiple choice, the exam also includes multiple response and fill-in-the-blank calculation. Some questions will also be provided as exhibits and graphics. It's a good idea to start writing questions in these various formats to help students get used to this style. The [CAT video](#) has some great ideas.

One of the best resources available to you is the REx-PN Test Plan

This document contains detailed information about the content areas to be tested by the REx-PN, and describes how the exam is structured, including the exam's length and how it is scored.

The [Test Plan](#) can be used as a guide for students preparing to write the REx-PN and for educators looking to write REx-PN-style questions so they can help students prepare.

There is also a [series of webinars](#) on the NCSBN site, covering the [Test Plan](#), [item writing](#), and more [info on CAT-style exams](#). You can also visit BCCNM's website for [information](#) and [FAQs](#).

More resources are coming

We are continuing to develop more resources to support educators and students:

- 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 Fall 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 Fall 2021

If you have questions, email us at PNExam@bccnm.ca and we'll be happy to assist.

Answers to your questions

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.

Will there be a limit on the number of times a candidate can write the REx-PN?

No. Applicants have unlimited attempts to write the REx-PN in order to pass. Applicants will have to wait a minimum of 60 days after failing the exam before they can attempt the exam again (a maximum of six attempts per year).

[BCCNM: REX-PN FAQs](#)

[NCSBN: REX-PN](#)



Who to contact

We are always available to answer your questions. You can reach out to us at PNExam@bccnm.ca