

UPDATE

March 23, 2017

Update on NCLEX®-RN Number of Writes – Change in Requirements

We are pleased to advise that the SRNA has fast tracked a new bylaw regarding the number of writes for the NCLEX®-RN exam. On March 10, 2017 the Minister of Health approved the new bylaw and it is now in effect. SRNA members will vote on the bylaw at our upcoming Annual General Meeting (May 4, 2017).

Bylaw VIII Subsection 1(1) is amended to read:

“(1) As of January 1, 2015, to be eligible for registration and the issuance of a licence to practice registered nursing in the general practice category, a person must write and pass the National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses, (hereafter NCLEX®-RN) within three years of the date of completion of the registered nursing program. A person admitted as an internationally educated nurse must write and pass the NCLEX®-RN exam within three years of the date of becoming eligible to write the exam”.

Bylaw VIII Subsection 1(3) is renumbered as new subsection 1(2) and is amended to read:

“(2) A person who does not pass the NCLEX®-RN exam within the three years as provided in paragraph (1) shall no longer be eligible to write the exam until that person satisfactorily completes an approved or recognized registered nursing education program”.

Background on the exam:

The NCLEX®-RN exam is a computer adaptive test (CAT). The CAT format determines the level of difficulty of questions presented to a writer based on how the writer responded to the preceding question. If a writer responds correctly to a question of medium difficulty, the next question will be slightly more difficult. Delivering the exam by computer at testing sites ensures that no two exams are identical and the same writer will not receive the same question for at least two years.

There is no set number of questions a writer must answer. It will depend on how long it takes the algorithm to determine whether the writer is consistently performing above, or below, or at the passing level. The fewest number of questions needed to determine this is 75; the most is 265.

Key Points:

- Removal of the previous maximum number of three attempts on the exam.

- As of January 1, 2015, to be eligible for RN licensure, a person must write and pass the NCLEX®-RN exam within three years of the date of completion of the registered nursing program.
- A person admitted as an Internationally Educated Nurse must write and pass the NCLEX®-RN exam within three years of the date of becoming eligible to write the exam.
- The exam cannot be written more than once every 45 days.
- Graduates who pass the exam are not automatically granted a licence. They are still required to demonstrate how they meet all other registration requirements in order to be granted a licence to practice registered nursing in Saskatchewan.
- The requirements for a graduate nurse remain unchanged.
Note: A temporary licence is cancelled upon notice the member has failed the required examination for the third time.

Q & A's – please see attached

Individuals who have written the NCLEX®-RN since January 2015 and have not passed the exam, should contact exams@srna.org