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Past Event: 2021 NCSBN REx-PN Conference - Q&A Session 1 Video Transcript

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Event

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More info: <https://www.ncsbn.org/16034.htm>

Presenters

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- [Jason] Hello, everyone. I hope you've enjoyed the presentation so far. I'm Jason Schwartz, Director of Outreach at NCSBN and I'll be the host for today's Q&A sessions. Before we take a look at the questions you've contributed through the online platform, I have three brief announcements to share.

First, the brand new REx-PN website is here. Head rexp.com to find the most current, accurate information about the exam. We'll drop a link into the chat for you. Check it out, and be sure to share it with your students as well. Second, NCSBN is actively recruiting for item writing and item review committees. This is a great way to contribute to the profession, network with colleagues, and build new skills.

We'll drop a link there as well for you in the chat. Sign up and also feel free to share the link with others who may be interested. Finally, if you have colleagues who were unable to attend today's conference, we will be posting recordings of all the sessions for future viewing. Check back soon.

With that, on to our Q&A. Our first question is for Hong. Hong, can you clarify if all of the standard-setting judges are nurses from Ontario and BC?

- [Hong] Thank you very much Jason for the question. The answer is yes. All the judges of standard-setting are the nurses from Ontario and BC. For the ones we just had in June 2021, we have 12 judges, and all of them are nurses from these two provinces.

Some of them are LPN, some of them are RPN, some of them are RN, some of them are educators, some of them are clinicians, and some of them are newly licensed LPN themselves. So the answer is, yes, all the judges for standard-setting are the nurses from these two provinces.

- Thank you, Hong. Jacklyn, the next question is for you. Can you clarify how long it takes for candidates to receive the results after completing the exam?

- [Jacklyn] Thanks, Jason. And, good question. So the REx-PN results will be made available to the candidates from their nursing regulatory body. So to answer your question on how many days it might take before the exam result is available will depend on the nursing regulatory body.

So candidates will be directed to CNO, Ontario, or BCCNM, for British Columbia for their results.

- Fantastic. Aly, we have a question about the focus or the scope of the practice analysis. Was it a study of just nurses in BC and Ontario or was it possibly all of Canada or even the United States as well?

- [Aly] Another great question Jason. The REx-PN was a study for the nurses that are using the REx-PN, which is, as Hong mentioned, in British Columbia and Ontario.

- Perfect. Okay. Question, Jacklyn, for you. During the videos, I think it was mentioned that all candidates needed to provide biometrics. So the question is what is meant by biometrics?

- Right, good question. So biometrics are our unique physical characteristics. And for the REx-PN, in order to be admitted to write the exam, candidates will have to submit a few biometrics. So during check-in on exam day, candidates will be asked to submit a scan of their palm vein.

They'll also have their photograph taken and they will provide a digital signature.

- Thank you. Hong, a question for you. One of the attendees notes that in 2023, NCSBN is updating the NCLEX exams to include next-generation item types. Will this impact REx-PN at all?

- Thank you, Jason. No, these will not impact the REx-PN. In other words, there will be no next-generation items in REx-PN exam in 2023.

- Thank you, Hong. Jacklyn, a question for you related to the administration. Will calculators be provided to candidates?

- Great question. Another one. So yes, candidates will have access to an on-screen calculator throughout the examination. And what I would suggest to help familiarize your students with the computer software would be to take the tutorial that we have on our website, the brand new website that Jason mentioned. And that's going to be in the Prepare section of rexp.com.

- Thank you, Jacklyn. Hong, are you able to share the number of items or number of questions that will be on REx-PN?

- Great question. Yes. You may know for the paper pencil test or for fixed-form test, you will receive the same number of items. But for REx-PN, we use variable-length CAT. So that's why the number of questions will be different depends on your ability. The minimum length is 90 questions and the maximum length is 150 questions.

So it is possible you can get any number of items between these 90 and 150.

- Thank you, Hong. Aly, you mentioned that the practice analysis is conducted every five years for the exam launching January 2022. What year did that practice analysis take place?

- Thanks, Jason. In order for the exam to be ready to launch in 2022, we did perform the practice analysis in 2019.

- Thank you very much, Aly. And a follow-up on the practice analysis, did it encompass any nursing specialties?

- Great question. So in short, yes, it does cover nursing specialties. As far as the panel, the practice analysis panel, any of the nurses that represent various practice settings in, you know, various areas, in BC and Ontario, as well as the practice analysis that is sent out to survey those nurses, whatever practice setting they would be working, that would be reflected in the actual data that comes back from the practice analysis survey.

- Okay, thank you, Aly. Hong, a question for you. Besides multiple choice, what other item types would candidates see on the REx-PN?

- Thank you, Jason. Great question. So majority of questions will be multiple-choice items, which only have one key but besides that, we also have multiple response items, which means there are more than one keys. And if you didn't get all keys correct, you got it wrong.

So in order to get a four point or one point, you need to get all correct for multiple response items. And you will also see calculation item, we call it fill-in-blank calculation. As Jacklyn mentioned, you will be able to access the calculator. So that's another type of items.

In terms of how many MC or MR or fill-in-blank items you will get, it will be varied between different candidates, because you know, CAT will administer different items to different candidates. So all the item type you will see from exam will be multiple-choice item, multiple response item, and fill-in-blank calculation items.

And please be note, sometimes those items will have graphics or exhibits.

- Thank you, Hong. A follow-up question there. Is there a particular amount of time that candidates should spend on each of these item types?

- Great question. Well, you know that the total time for Rex-PN is four hours, but we don't have any preset time on each item. In general, we will recommend maybe spend 60 to 90 seconds on each item from our previous experience.

- Thank you, Hong. Aly, I have a question for you. For the item writing or the item review committees, what are the requirements for nurses in Canada to participate?

- Thanks, Jason. In order to participate in the item development process, we use experienced nurse volunteers that educate nursing students in the clinical setting or work directly with entry-level nurses. And this is because we want them to be familiar with the entry-level nursing knowledge. So input from the entry-level nurses is sought out in those different areas for the item development process.

And not just for item writing and item review, but also as we mentioned previously, the practice analysis and for the panel of judges in the standard-setting.

- Thank you, Aly. Hong, this is a question for you. An attendee notes that on some exams, she's aware that there are questions that don't count, maybe just for research purposes, will this also be the case with REx-PN?

- Correct. That's a great question. For 90 items and 150 items, I mentioned they're embedded into 30 pre-test item we say. So pretest item means they do not count for your score but we need to embed those items to get statistics. We need to see whether these items are good or bad.

So every REx-PN operational items will be pre-tested to make sure that they are psychometrically sound in order to be counted as your score. Therefore, in each REx-PN exam, you will see 30 pre-test items that won't be count as your score but you will not tell which one isscored, which one is not scored.

So just try your best on every item.

- Fantastic. Hong, another question about the setup of the exam. If a candidate doesn't know the answer to a question, is there any advantage to skipping that question?

- Thank you, Jason. Actually, in CAT exam, you cannot skip questions. The computer, it should know your response to each item in order to pick next item for you. So I know it's very different as your fixed form, you may skip it or you may come back it to review it and answer it.

In CAT, you have to provide answer to each item in order to see next item. So if you don't know the answer for one item, my recommendation will be just spend about one to two minutes, don't spend too much time on one item. And if you really don't know, just do your best guess and then you can move to next item.

- Thank you, Hong. Jacklyn, a question for you. During your presentation, there was a video where there was a lot of information that looked very helpful for candidates. Is there a best place that candidates or students today should go to find that information or learn more?

- Yes, and I believe that you had mentioned that earlier, Jason. We are pleased to announce that REx-PN has its own dedicated website and this site will offer all information, great information for candidates to prepare for the exam, as well as go over exam date details, results processing, and a lot of the features that Aly mentioned about of test development.

We have some prepared in About section features of the new website. So that would be rexpn.com.

- Rexpn.com, there you have it. Aly, a question for you. Are other provinces or territories besides Ontario and BC using this exam or is it just those two?

- I think at time we have Ontario and BC are the Canadian provinces using the REx-PN, and that's what was reflected in our practice analysis as well.

- Thank you, Aly. Hong, this is a question for you. While candidates are writing the REx-PN exam, will they know which question number they're on? For instance, if they're on the 45th item, will it say item 45?

- Yes, candidates will be able to tell which items they are on because on the computer screen, they will see which item they're on.

- Okay. Hong, I think we may not have had your full audio but I believe your answer was yes, they will see the number.

- Yes.

- Okay. Thank you. Jacklyn, a question for you. When can candidates begin to register for the exam?

- Oh, registration opens December 1st of this year. While the exam will be launched in January, candidates can start the registration process as early as December 1st, 2021.

- Thank you. And Jacklyn, while I have you, is there any residency requirement to register for the exam? For example, will international candidates be able to take the REx-PN?

- It's a great question. So candidates who would like to take the REx-PN do need to be made eligible by either CNO or BCCNM. So my recommendation would be if any international candidates would like to take the REx-PN, they should first contact either CNO or BCCNM to determine eligibility requirements.

That would be my recommendation for internationally testing candidate.

- Jacklyn, more for you. When candidates register for REx-PN are they able to choose the date or is it just provided to them by the system?

- Another great question. So when candidates register to take the REx-PN, they, like I mentioned, they do need to be made eligible. And candidates will be given an authorization to test period, also known as that eligibility period window. So they would have to be able to schedule their appointment within the window frame that their nursing regulatory body determined during that eligibility period.

- Thank you, Jacklyn. Hong, I have a bit of a technical question for you. Does the CAT algorithm begin estimating candidate ability on the 60th item or does it start sooner than that?

- Thank you very much, Jason. Actually, this question will be answered in afternoon session when Shu-chuan has session on Computerized Adaptive Testing. Just give a short answer here is that the computer will recalculate your ability after each item. But when the computer compare your ability to the standard come out starts at 60th operational items.

So the computer will always estimate your ability towards start compared to a standard starting from 60th operational item.

- Thank you, Hong. Jacklyn, I've got another question for you. If candidates want to make notes during the exam, will they have something like an onscreen note pad that they can do that on?

- That's a good question. So candidates are provided an erasable note board when they are at the testing center. So they can have a note board. It's like a dry erase note board with them throughout the exam. It's not on screen. It's actually a pen and a paper.

- Thank you. And Aly, I'm going to route this question to you but it may also be for Jacklyn. Are there any study materials or resource materials that candidates can have access to during testing?

- Great question, Jason. So candidates that are preparing for the exam can find several resources in the REx-PN Resource area on our website. And these resources include the test plan, and a REx-PN practice exam is also available.

- Okay, thank you. And then I probably should have clarified a little bit in the question. So that would all be what Aly named, I would say before testing, and then Jacklyn during testing, are candidates able to bring any resources?

- Candidates are not able to bring study materials to the testing center. When candidates check-in at the testing center, they will be provided with a copy of the NCSBN examination rules. In those rules, you'll find various policies of which study materials is the big one, as well as no access to electronic devices during the testing appointment.

And all of that includes, you know, the moment you check-in from when you're in the testing room, during your breaks, until the conclusion of your exam.

- Thank you, Jacklyn. And, when is the first day of the new exam? It's in January but is there a specific date?

- Yes, January 4th of 2022.

- Thank you. Hong, a question for you. Is it known or is there an estimate of about what percent of items a candidate should get correct in order to pass?

- Great question. Thank you. And again, for the afternoon session, CAT, we will explain more about this. But just want to mention that in REx-PN, we'll be using CAT and it's different from previous fixed form. As I mentioned, for fixed forms, everyone takes same items. So say if you got 100 correct you pass, but in CAT different people actually get different items so think about that.

Or a lower ability student, I will get a lot easier items or your hybrid students, you will get more harder questions. So there is no percentage we need to say okay, if you're over this percentage you've passed because we receive different number of items. That's why in CAT we can not use percentage correct as the criteria for pass. Actually, to tell you the truth, for all the people who pass, for all the people who fail, everyone got about 50% correct and 50% wrong, because item is depend on the ability - Okay, thank you, Aly, a question for you.

In British Columbia, the curriculum includes providing culturally safe and effective care specific to the Aboriginal population. Is that something that would be reflected at all on REx-PN?

- Yes, Jason. Absolutely. So culture is reflected in the test plan as an integrated process. But additionally, content related to the care of the Aboriginal population would be represented in the Psychosocial Integrity category, including this care of this population.

- Okay. Aly, also for medication calculation items on the exam, would there be any that would involve pediatric clients?

- Yes. So if there were medication calculation, there are medication calculation items on this exam and if they were to be reflected for pediatric, it would be noted in the actual item itself.

- Thank you, Aly. Jacklyn, a question for candidates who write the exam in French. Would there be a toggle button that perhaps translates the item between French and English for those candidates?

- Thank you, Jason. And so the question I heard because my audio cut out a little bit is, will students be able to access a French button during their exam, a translation button? Well, the exam the way it is

developed, it is in English or in French so when the candidates do take it in French, it will be solely in French.

- Yeah. Thank you, Jacklyn. That's right. It was whether students writing in French could toggle to see the English version so I think you've answered that. Hong, I think you may have answered this but just to clarify, are candidates taking the CAT exam able to go backwards and forwards across the items in the exam, or can they only proceed forward?

- Thank you, Jason. The answer is no. You cannot go back and forth. You have to answer each item in order to proceed.

- Okay, thank you. Jacklyn, a question related to accommodations. Is there an ability for some candidates to receive extra time or other testing accommodations that they might require for testing?

- The short answer is yes, of course. This afternoon, I do do a presentation over testing accommodations. So more details will be discussed during that and candidates will be offered testing accommodations. The process, in short, is to request those from the nursing regulatory body. That gets reviewed by CNO or BCCNM and then approved for testing.

Just to spoiler for this presentation this afternoon. The most frequently requested would be extra time or a separate room.

- Thank you, Jacklyn. And Jacklyn, for a candidate who wishes to take the French version of the exam, is that a simple step during the registration process? How do they make that preference known?

- Yes, absolutely. So when candidates wish to write their REx-PN in French, they'll simply register with Pearson VUE. There'll be language options on the website to whichever language the candidate prefers to be communicated in, English or French and they simply choose the French REx-PN while going through the registration.

- Very good. Jacklyn, one more for you. If a candidate is successful on REx-PN, does that also give them the ability to practice at all in the United States?

- I see. That's a good question. So licensure is determined by the nursing regulatory body and that's going to be the same in the U.S. or Canada. All nursing licensure requirements are set by the jurisdiction where the candidate seeks to be licensed. So if a candidate would like to practice in the U.S., they would have to pick the state or the jurisdiction where they'd like to practice and fulfill those requirements.

The REx-PN is an examination used for licensure only in Ontario and British Columbia so the REx-PN is not used in the United States.

- Thank you. Hong, you had talked about different item types that would be on the exam. There's a question about audio and drag and drop. Would we see any questions that are either audio or drag and drop on REx-PN?

- Thank you very much, Jason. No, there will be no audio or drag-and-drop questions in the REx-PN.

- Thank you. Jacklyn, I think this may be the last question for this session. I also want attendees to know if you asked a question that we didn't get to, we do have a second Q&A session. So we'll bring some of

those questions forward. Jacklyn, the question for you, is the number of testing centers being increased to accommodate this new exam?

- Well, that's a great question too. So what we have during graduation season is what we call peak season for testing season. And while the physical number of testing centers does not increase, the hours in which they operate do, so that way we can fulfill the need of incoming students during what we call again, peak season or graduation season in the springtime.

- Jacklyn, thank you. So with that, I'd like to close out our first Q&A session. [Inaudible] about a 15-minute break. 35 minutes after the hour, we'll resume the conference. Thank you very much.