Past Event: 2021 NCSBN REx-PN Conference - Q&A Session 2 Video Transcript
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Event
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More info: https://www.ncsbn.org/16034.htm

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- [Jason] Well, welcome back, everybody. I hope you didn't fall asleep as well. That was seven sessions. I think we've answered 41 questions. We just have about 33 minutes left to go. This is the home stretch.

So, Jacklyn, I'm going to start with you. One of the attendees noted that during COVID, students were very accustomed to taking exams at home, in which case they might eat or drink during testing. Are foods or fluids allowed at the testing center?

- [Jacklyn] Yeah. I believe we all became accustomed to certain changes during the pandemic. Drinking and eating in front of the computer screen is definitely one of them. Though prior to the pandemic, candidates were not allowed to bring food or drink into the testing room, and that policy still remains. However, candidates can bring snacks or drinks to keep in their locker and may access them during their break.

- Thank you, Jacklyn. Aly, this question is for you. The attendees note that they would normally expect nurses to be able to look up medications that they're not familiar with. Therefore, on the exam, will they need to know specific medications or just categories or classes of medications?

- [Aly] Thanks, Jason. So candidates taking the REx-PN should anticipate pharmacological questions maybe focused on specific medications or medication categories. So they would want to be familiar with both.

- Fantastic. Shu-chuan, there may be a research project in this one for you. Does the speed of a candidate's response contribute at all to their ability estimate?

- [Shu-chuan] Well, thank you, Jason. This is a nice question. Yeah, I will turn it into a research topic. The answer to the question is no. The speed of your response won't contribute to your ability estimate. Remember, all candidates have 4 hours to answer at most 150 questions.

You won't get higher ability estimate by responding to questions more quickly.

- Thank you, Shu-chuan. Aly, during your earlier presentation on the practice analysis, you mentioned the management of central venous access devices as an activity statement under pharmacological and parenteral therapies. Attendees noted that they didn't see it there in the test plan.

Could you clarify if that is something on the test?

- Yeah. Actually, I apologize. This activity statement is in physiological adaptation, test plan Category 8. And specifically, the activity statement is, assist with invasive procedures/ with central line listed as one of those. And there's data from the practice analysis that reflects this is an activity statement that entry-level LPN RPNs are performing.

The RPNs performing this activity rated it as an average of 4.46 on a scale of 1.5. So that is implying that this activity is important in safe and effective delivery of entry-level RPN LPN nursing.

- Thank you, Aly. Jacklyn, a question for you concerning results, which is, I think you already answered, how long it might take for a candidate to see results. But how does the candidate actually receive results? Is it like an email? Or maybe it comes hardcopy in the mail, thin envelope, you pass, thicker envelope, maybe you didn't?

- Right, valid question, Jason. So similar to my response earlier, it's going to depend on the nursing regulatory body. So I mentioned earlier that results will come to the candidates from their NRB, your nursing regulatory body. So for the REx-PN, it will come from College of Nurses of Ontario or the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives, or BCCNM.

So now the format in which they receive their result will be determined by that NRB. So candidates should inquire directly with the CNO or BCCNM about their results.

- Thank you, Jacklyn. I'm going to ask this next question first to Aly and then next to Hong, which is are there any resources that would help students or candidates understand the criteria for passing or failing this exam?

- So, I'll go first. And when you're looking at the REx-PN test plan that's found on the website, there is a lot of information for the candidate that they can use to, you know, feel prepared for passing the exam, and you want to consider this as a study guide or, you know, a test blueprint.

The test plan has a breakdown of the percentages for each test point category that all test takers will receive regardless of the length of their exam. And in each section, you will also find a listing of the associated activity statements as well as related nursing content that they may find on the exam. Additionally, there is this section on the test plan related to the administration of the REx-PN, which has information about CAT, exam link, passing standard, which might also be helpful for students to feel prepared to pass the exam.

And this is, you know, available for download on the website. Another thing to consider for those that would want a more in-depth look and feel of the REx-PN exam would be to use the practice exam. So that's a little bit of information about passing, and then I'll hand it back to you.

- Thank you, Aly. Hong, is there anything you'd like to add?

- [Hong] Thank you, Jason. Yes. For understanding passing and fail, I will recommend one video saying "REx-PN Using CAT," which is on our website. It's about five minutes video. I recommend that. You can play this video to your students so they can better understand which means pass, which means fail. Another thing I want to mention is, if a student fail exam, they will receive CPR, Candidate Performance Report.

In that report, for failed student, they will specify in each of eight content area, whether their performance is close to the cut, below the cut, or above the cut. So they can get some kind of diagnostic information from this report, so they can better use their time to review those content.

- Thank you, Hong. Jacklyn, a couple of questions for you. Aly had mentioned the practice exam, is that available already on the REx-PN website? And also, second question related to it, does it use CAT?

- Great question. So the REx-PN practice exam is available now. That is available on our website, the rexpn.com. If you go to the Prepare section, you'll find a whole subsection of the practice exam. This has been available since July and will continue to be available to aid students in prepping for the exam.

Now, this purchasable product does provide what we call a look and feel of the CAT examination. And what do we mean by a look and feel? Well, it is an online exam, so there's a difference there. But it does contain the item formats that are on the actual exam, so those select all that apply.

I think Hong mentioned earlier in her presentation the different format. The practice exam only allows forward responses, meaning you can't go backward, much like on the real REx-PN. Users will have a maximum of four hours to complete each exam, and the exams must be completed in one continuous sitting.

So the product itself actually contains 2 tests with 80 questions each. Each exam can only be taken one. Each exam must be completed within 45 days of purchase, and at the end of the exam, the candidates would receive a score report of the percentages of questions that they answered correctly. And, again, this product is available now on our website.

But, it is important to note on our disclaimer that the practice exam is strictly for a look and feel of the actual REx-PN, to give you that same experience that you will on exam day, and it is not a predictability examination.

- Thank you, Jacklyn. That was very comprehensive. So this next question gives me an opportunity to introduce Nicole Williams. She's the senior manager for our examinations department, and she is sitting in today for the Q&A in place of Latrice Johnson. Nicole, Latrice really hyped the volunteer opportunities for item writing, item review panels. Can you remind attendees how they can sign up for these volunteer roles?

- [Nicole] That's a good question, Jason. And, absolutely, our colleague, Latrice Johnson, certainly referenced that. We make it fun, and we really do. The development of the REx-PN exam initially and

even ongoing certainly depends on the volunteerism of nurses such as yourselves, those individuals that are attending this conference.

So you can find how to access those...the volunteer opportunities on our website at ncsbn.org in the examinations area. If you click on Exam Volunteer Opportunities, it will show you a link to down...excuse me, to access the database where you can apply to be selected for one of the panels, and we hold panels essentially all year long.

You can be possibly selected for an item writing panel, an item review panel, or even subsequently when we start to look at the passing standard, again, that that is one of the opportunities as well. The application list of, you know, various questions to ask. So we're actually looking to be sure that you qualify for that particular panel.

We keep your application in the database, and when a panel is being held that fits your criteria, we send out an email asking if you are available, and then you could possibly be selected to participate in one of the panels.

- Nicole, thank you very much. And once again, like we did earlier today, we're going to drop a link for volunteer opportunities into the chat. So that'd be another way to get there. Jacklyn, a question for you. During your security presentation, you had mentioned that candidates would not be able to access their cell phones.

Are there any exceptions? For example, if a candidate needed to check on a child or maybe a sick relative?

- Yeah. Very good question. So candidates are asked, again, to bag all electronic devices during the entire testing appointment. So candidates will sign the candidate statement, agreeing to its terms and conditions. So it is NCSBN policy that candidates do not access any electronic devices throughout the appointment.

Candidates, however, are provided with the Testing Center site information, including the site's telephone number, should the candidate have an urgent or emergency issue to arise, they can supply that telephone number. And in the event of...very rare events of urgent emergency issues, the landline at the test site can be used.

- Thank you very much. Jacklyn, this is for you as well. In our first Q&A, I think you referenced some increase in testing appointments in the spring or summer corresponding to certain graduations. An attendee notes that in Ontario, many PN programs finish in August. Therefore, would you anticipate any increase in appointments made available for the fall?

- Great. Thanks for that clarification question, too. So testing availability will increase as demands increase, that's the way the system is set up when candidates go to schedule their appointments. However, it's worth noting that NCSBN and Pearson VUE, the deliverer of the REx-PN, have been working very close with the regulators from Ontario and British Columbia to determine the number of anticipated graduates in order to ensure adequate testing availability.

- Okay, thank you. Thank you very much, Jacklyn. One more question for you. You had also mentioned during the security presentation there are some reasons that a candidate exam or candidate exam result

might be held or withheld. In such circumstances would the candidate need to pay to sit for the exam again, or would that essentially be free to retest?

- Oh, I see. So we're speaking to when a result goes on hold, and that could be for a various amount of reasons. And what happens is then NCSBN needs to go and review the incident, and results that go on hold are most often released within a business week. That's after that thorough review can be completed of, you know, documentation and the score was verified to be valid and accurate.

In these cases, the candidates would receive their pass or fail results from their nursing regulatory body. If the candidate was unsuccessful in their attempt, then yes, the candidate would have to repay the examination fee to retest. However, results that will be invalidated due to a rule violation or any other infraction, that would then also be the candidate's responsibility to repay the examination fee.

- Thank you, Jacklyn. Nicole, another question for you. On the REx-PN, will all the items be individual and independent from one another, or would some be bundled into case studies where there might be a situation that has three, or four, or five questions that essentially go together?

- That's a good question, Jason. Currently right now, all of the items are considered individual kind of standalone items. All of the information that a candidate would need to review and consider for that particular item to respond is in that one question. Once the candidate has made his or her selection and moves on to the next question, they should consider the next question totally separate.

At this time, all of the items are considered individual items.

- Thank you, Nicole. Jacklyn, we have a question related to accommodations. Are there any accommodations or perhaps exceptions to testing center rules that are granted based on things like perhaps the candidate's religion under something like the Human Rights Act?

- Right, that's a great question. So it's important to note that NCSBN adheres to the various Human Rights and Disability Acts when verifying testing accommodations. But it is the difference between the accommodation request must be submitted to the nursing regulatory body.

The NRB, as we call them, are responsible of reviewing the diagnosis of the disability or their certain accommodation, and not NCSBN. So candidates should be directed to their nursing regulatory body for any exceptions.

- Thank you, Jacklyn. I'm going to keep you here. You had referenced a comfort aides list? Where would somebody find that list? And is it possible for us today to drop a link if it's something we can find on the web?

- Yeah. Absolutely. We have that on our website. So if you go to the registration portion of our website, it's going to be, if you're on a desktop, the bottom right. If you're on a mobile, then it'll probably be on the bottom of the page. And it says The Comfort Aides List.

It's a downloadable PDF.

- Okay, fantastic. And we'll try to put a link in the chat as well for that. Question for Nicole. During Hong's presentation, she mentioned that certain items that were flagged for diff would be reviewed by a diff panel. And the question is what the composition of that panel would be.

Is that, again, nurses from BC and Ontario, or would there be a different makeup to that group?

- That's a good question, Jason. Essentially, the composition, the differential item functioning, and the sensitivity panels are laypersons that represents the ethnicities of the candidates who are taking the REx-PN exam. We do make sure that we invite a couple of nurses that participate in the panel as well because the nurses then help conduct conversations around if the panelists have a concern regarding particular medical terminology.

The layperson's responsibility, as my colleague, Latrice, mentioned earlier, is essentially to review each of the examination items for those four criteria, and not necessarily nursing content at all. So the majority of the panel propositions are laypersons, but we do invite nurses to the panel to help possibly lead some of the conversations if some of the lay panelists have questions or concerns around the medical terminology.

- Okay, thank you, Nicole. Hong, we didn't forget about you. The passing standard, is that going to stay the same then each year once it's determined? Or would it change perhaps each year?

- Great question. Thank you, Jason. The standard will keep the same for five years. Now, after five years, we will revisit the standard. Sometimes after revisit it's still going to keep the same, but sometime, it will be changed. So current passing standard, -0.32, will be effective January 4th, 2022 and will keep effective until end of 2026.

Then in 2027, that may changed or it may keep the same, depend on another standard-setting workshop.

- Thank you, Hong. Nicole, I have a question for you related to the volunteers for the item writing or maybe more specifically here, the item review panels. Would we or do we generally publish the names of those participants?

A question came in, essentially related to security, where it might be important to be sure that that person or perhaps a spouse isn't part of test prep or some other company that where there might be an advantage to have access to the exam information.

- That's a good question, and I'll answer it in two fold. When each of the volunteers are applying to participate in the panels, as I mentioned earlier, when they access the database on our website, it is asking a series of questions, essentially looking to see if the person qualifies to participate in the panel.

Additionally, a part of that qualification is adhering to what we consider a confidentiality agreement as well as we're looking for potential conflicts of interest. So to that end, we're ensuring or safeguarding the exam, you know, as it relates to that. So if there was an individual who had or presented a particular conflict of interest, they may not qualify to participate on the panel.

Furthermore, at this time, we do not publicize the participants in each of the panels. If someone qualifies for a particular panel, we do invite them back. But, once again, they would have to adhere to the conflict of interest as well as the confidentiality policy.

- Thank you, Nicole. So just a quick pitch to our attendees, we've got just over 10 minutes remaining. I've got a few questions in the queue, but if you have any last questions that you'd like to ask, get them in now if you can so that we can address them. If not, we may finish a tad early, but let's see.

So a question for Jacklyn. How many breaks is a candidate able to take? Do they count against the four-hour exam time, or does the timer essentially stop when someone goes out on break?

- Great question. Thanks, Jason. Candidates may take as many breaks as they wish throughout their examination. The computer will prompt the candidate to take what we call a scheduled break at the two-hour mark and three-and-a-half-hour mark. But candidates can take unscheduled breaks at any time by simply raising their hand throughout the exam appointments.

And all breaks, whether unscheduled or scheduled, do count against testing time.

- Thank you, Jacklyn. Nicole, I have a question for you. Latrice referenced that there's certain language that would not be present in the exam items due to sensitivity reasons. She gave an example where I believe it was the nurse perhaps addressing a client as, "Hey, sweetie."

So the question from the audience that came in is, might that be important to retain on the exam so that candidates could recognize as part of the item that that would be an inappropriate response?

- That's actually a really good question. And actually, the way I'd like to focus the response is each of the examination items has only one focus. And in that sense, the question that my colleague saw, excuse me, presented was it included language that was inappropriate in that particular set.

Now, let's say there is another examination item that the focus is on communication and inappropriate communication, there is the potential that information like that could be added in order to test that particular content. So in the item that you saw earlier, the focus wasn't that content, but in a future or another examination item, perhaps the focus is on appropriate communication, so it could include that language.

- Outstanding. Shu-chuan, I have a question for you about the pretest items on REx-PN. Are they all maybe at the beginning or at the end, or would they be more likely scattered almost randomly across the entire exam?

- Thank you, Jason. This is a great question. The pretest items will appear among the first 90 items in your exam. They are kind of randomly seated among the operational items. We want to make sure candidates taking the minimum-length exam will be able to respond to all 30 pretest items.

- Okay. Thank you, Shu-chuan. And, Nicole, this is a question for you. There's a question on educators who want to help prepare their students or future graduates for REx-PN. Would you suggest that they refrain from personalizing clients in case studies or doing things that don't necessarily match the style of the exam?

- We don't use personal names. So in that sense, I wouldn't recommend using that information if you're looking to mimic, you know, a style as it relates to...in REx-PN we don't use personal names, sorry about that, if you're looking to mimic that style.

I think one of the things that we try to do is to be sure that we're including, as I mentioned earlier, enough information in each of the examination items that is appropriate to provide an adequate response. So as my colleague mentioned earlier, if we have to include gender or ethnicity because it's appropriate to the item, then absolutely we do include that.

All of the items that a candidate would see essentially just has that information for them to consider. We try to avoid including any extra information that may cause what we consider essential extra noise, extra information that a candidate may not need to consider but would possibly maybe go down a different road if we did add it.

So I know that's kind of a roundabout way of answering the question. So in summary, my recommendation would be...is to add some, but don't go overboard. Don't add a lot.

- Nicole, thank you very much. As I'm checking my notes, it looks like we may have come to the end of the Q&A. So I'd like to finish with just a few quick reminders. As you learned today, registration for the new exam begins December 1st. The launch of the new exam or the first day that candidates would sit for the REx-PN is January 4th.

And then, let me recap just briefly the three announcements I made at the beginning. Number one, the new website, rexpn.com, designed to be helpful to candidates looking for the most accurate and current information about REx-PN. Number two, volunteer opportunities for those item writing and item review panels.

And we've dropped that link for volunteer opportunities into the chat. And finally, number three, we will be hustling as soon as we sign off to make our recordings available to you through this platform and down the road even through our website as well. So with that, I'm Jason Schwartz, signing off.

Thank all of you for your time and attention today. I hope it proved worthwhile and that you feel very much more prepared for the exam coming January 4th, 2022, REx-PN, thank you very much.