Contents

Notification of exam results
Retaking the NCLEX
Provisional registration with CRNBC
Why do people fail the NCLEX?
How will I know that I am ready to retake the NCLEX?
Resources
Plan for Remediation Worksheet
NCLEX Fact Sheet
NOTIFICATION OF EXAM RESULTS

You will be notified of your exam result within a few days of writing the exam. If you have failed the exam, CRNBC will send a follow-up email within two weeks that includes information about your performance on the exam, your eligibility to retake the exam, and information about your provisional registration (if applicable).

RETTAKING THE EXAMINATION

An applicant for CRNBC registration can write the national nursing exam three times. This includes all attempts at a recognized registration exam, such as the Canadian Registered Nurse Examination, the Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec professional exam, or the NCLEX, written through any regulatory body.

If you have failed the exam once, you will be eligible to retake the exam a second time as long as your CRNBC file is still valid.

If you fail the exam twice, your file may be reviewed by the CRNBC Registration Committee or delegate who has the authority to place conditions that you must meet prior to writing the exam a third time.

If you fail the exam three or more times, permission must be granted by the CRNBC Board for a fourth or subsequent exam writing.

Pearson Vue requires that candidates wait a minimum of 45 days between NCLEX attempts. If you apply for the NCLEX before the 45 days has passed, your Authorization to Test (ATT) will be issued with a validity period starting 45 days after your previous attempt.

PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION WITH CRNBC

If you currently hold provisional registration with CRNBC:

- You can continue working on provisional registration after one exam fail. You must inform all of your current or prospective employers that you were not successful on the exam.
- Applicants who fail the examination two or more times are not eligible for provisional registration and will not be considered for registration until they pass the exam.

If you do not currently hold provisional registration or if you intend to add additional employers to your provisional registration and you have failed the exam one time:

- You must inform all of your prospective employers that you were not successful on the exam.
- Apply for provisional registration by completing Form 8.1: Application for Provisional Registration (available by contacting CRNBC at register@crnbc.ca) and submitting it to CRNBC along with a letter of acknowledgment from your prospective employer. This letter must confirm that the employer is aware of your examination result.

Check the CRNBC website www.crnbc.ca to see if any changes have been made regarding provisional registration.

WHY DO PEOPLE FAIL THE NCLEX?

Partial or incomplete integration of nursing content

Failure of the exam may indicate that you are weak in one or more areas of nursing content or that you have not sufficiently integrated your knowledge of nursing to respond to situations typically encountered by entry-level registered nurses.

As a first step to correcting this:

- Reflect on your level of nursing knowledge and the extent to which you have integrated this knowledge.
• Ask yourself if there are areas of nursing knowledge and practice that you found particularly difficult in your nursing program, clinical experience, in preparing for the examination or in the examination you have recently taken.
• Evaluate the study methods you used for your previous examination(s). Use CRNBC’s Remediation Worksheet (included in this package) to help you identify new and different study methods for preparing to re-take the examination.

You are the best source to identify your weaknesses. Discuss and confirm your strengths and weaknesses with others that you trust and believe can provide you with accurate feedback, e.g., educators, supervisors, peers and colleagues.

Next, determine how you can prepare differently to retake the examination. Options include:
• study by yourself
• study with other candidates
• use exam prep guides
• work with a tutor/teacher
• enrol in an exam preparatory class

Unfamiliarity with Exam Format

The NCLEX consists of multiple-choice and alternate format questions presented through Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT) model. Not everybody is as familiar with this type of testing as they might be with other forms of testing. All answers are marked as either correct or incorrect; there are no marks for knowing some of the answer.

Use a tutor/teacher or look at study guides available on the internet to familiarize yourself with the best approaches and techniques to take a CAT style exam. You should also review the NCLEX website for information about CAT.

Problems coping with the stress of writing exams

What type of stresses do you have in your life right now? Is it the best time to be writing this major exam or do you need to deal with the stresses in your life first and take the exam when life is more relaxed?

Examinations can be very stressful. Stress is an appropriate response to events in our lives. It becomes problematic if our level of stress is too high and we cannot cope effectively. Fatigue and undue stress can affect your performance on the exam. Planning in advance for the examination, scheduling your time effectively for studying, doing other activities and resting, can help reduce your level of stress.

For your next attempt to pass the examination:
• Prepare well in advance. Use CRNBC’s Plan for Remediation Worksheet (available in this package).
• Prepare for the examination day by checking the location of the examination centre, and determine how much time you will need to get there.
• You should not have to study the day before the exam. You may wish to spend the day doing relaxing activities. There are a number of relaxation techniques you can use. Choose one that works for you. Try to be active, but avoid overexertion. Most important, get a good night’s sleep the day before the exam.
• On the day of the exam, eat suitable meals, wear comfortable clothing and bring the information you will need, e.g., instructions received for the exam.

When it comes to identifying what may have been the difficulties you experienced in taking the exam, you are the best source of information. Focus on what you experienced during the exam.
HOW WILL I KNOW THAT I AM READY TO RETAKE THE NCLEX?

A positive attitude can be a strong ally. Have confidence in yourself. Use the experience you have gained from your previous attempt to pass the examination. One advantage you have over other candidates is that you are familiar with the exam format, how it is administered and what happens on the day of the exam.

Keep in mind that you have successfully completed your nursing education and taken remedial steps to correct your weaknesses. If you have prepared for the exam, rested well the day before, you will have taken the best steps towards success.

RESOURCES

CRNBC is unable to recommend any specific resources for the NCLEX. If you were educated in B.C., you may want to check with your nursing program to see what resources they recommend.

There are many organizations that offer NCLEX preparatory materials that you can consider purchasing which you can locate through an internet search, or by asking for referrals from nursing colleagues.

There are many resources available on the NCLEX website that you should review before the exam. Some of these key documents are:

- Candidate Bulletin
- Candidate Rules
- Detailed Test Plan
- Information about Computer Adaptive Testing
- FAQs

If you require further information or assistance, please contact the Exam Administrator — RNs and NPs at 604.736.7331 ext. 225 or 1.800.565.6505 ext. 225.
Plan for Remediation
Worksheet

INSTRUCTIONS

- As part of your preparation to retake the NCLEX, you may wish to use this worksheet to evaluate the study methods you used for your previous examination(s) and identify new study methods for preparing to re-take the examination.
- If you wish, you are welcome to send the completed worksheet to CRNBC for review and feedback.

1. List the dates and locations of your previous exam writings:

For each previous exam writing, record the date, the exam you wrote, and your method of preparation (e.g., self-study, six sessions of tutoring, completed nursing re-entry program).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EXAM WRITTEN</th>
<th>METHOD OF PREPARATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. List the factors you feel contributed to your previous lack of success on the exam:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

3. In identifying your study needs and plans, consider the following:

Your nursing education
Was your education more specialist than generalist? What areas of nursing practice have you forgotten or that were not covered during your education?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Your nursing employment to date

Have you been working in very specialized areas of nursing? What are they?


Were you able to identify specific gaps in your nursing knowledge? Perhaps it’s been a long time since you studied or worked in a specific area of nursing, such as pediatrics or geriatrics, yet questions on these areas could be a significant portion of the examination. List the areas of practice that you feel you might have gaps in your knowledge or skills?


In preparing to retake the NCLEX, be sure to concentrate on these areas of nursing practice.

If you did not complete your nursing education in Canada, the gaps in your knowledge may exist because you have never been exposed to certain areas of Canadian nursing, such as the Canadian health care system, community nursing, nursing of specific population groups, the metric system of measurement. What areas do you need more knowledge about?


4. Have you used CRNBC’s online learning resources?

Clinical Decision-making Nursing Practice
Understanding the Scope of Practice
Communications in Nursing Practice

www.crnbc.ca/PracticeSupport/CoursesWorkshops/WebModules/Pages/Default.aspx

These are valuable resources for you to use for your examination as well as in your nursing practice
5. Describe your proposed plan for remedial education. What else can you do to be successful in the next exam writing?

Does your plan include:

a. Re-entry Program
   - [ ] No
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] Currently enrolled
   - [ ] Have applied
   - [ ] Have not yet applied

b. Tutoring

   Name of Tutor

   Number and Length of Tutoring Sessions Planned

c. Other

Describe any alternative or additional, plans for preparation to rewrite the examination, e.g., group study, specific NCLEX resources.

d. Books, magazines or journal articles (list them here)?
Before retaking the NCLEX, don't forget simple things such as reading the questions more carefully, relaxing the day before the exam, having an early night before the exam, making sure that your transit plans are in place, not being hungry during the exam or simply taking a deep breath when you sit down at your exam seat.

6. Other suggestions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant’s Name</th>
<th>last</th>
<th>first</th>
<th>middle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>File Number</td>
<td>Address (Apt./Box No., Number, Street)</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you would like CRNBC to review this worksheet and provide you with feedback

Forward the completed worksheet to

Exam Administrator — RNs and NPs
2855 Arbutus Street
Vancouver, BC Fax 604.736.3576
Email
klvari@crnbc.ca
Applicants for nurse registration in British Columbia are required to pass an RN entry to practice examination. Effective January 2015 applicants must write the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). The NCLEX is a computer adaptive test owned by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). For detailed information about the NCLEX, visit www.nclex.com

**EXAMINATION CONTENT**

The practice of nursing requires knowledge of the health needs of clients as well as an understanding of integrated processes fundamental to nursing practice. Client Needs are used as the framework for the NCLEX test plan. The NCLEX Test Plan is a document that describes the scope and content of the examination and can be downloaded at no cost on the NCSBN website at: www.ncsbn.org/1287.htm

**EXAMINATION LENGTH**

The NCLEX can be anywhere from 75 to 265 items. Of these items, 15 are pretest items that are not scored. Regardless of the number of items administered, the time limit for this examination is six hours.

**EXAMINATION RESULTS**

The examination result is reported as a pass or fail. You will receive your result by email within a few days of writing the examination. Results are not released over the telephone.

**NCLEX APPLICATIONS**

All NCLEX applicants must apply directly with NCSBN's testing partner, Pearson Vue at www.pearsonvue.com/nclex. B.C. Graduates should apply no earlier than one month before program completion. CRNBC will advise all other applicants to apply with Pearson Vue once all other registration requirements have been met. You must be confirmed as eligible for the exam by CRNBC within one year of applying with Pearson Vue or you forfeit the exam fee.

**SCHEDULING THE NCLEX**

You cannot schedule a NCLEX date until CRNBC has confirmed with Pearson Vue that you are eligible for the examination and you have received an Authorization to Test. The Authorization to Test will specify the 90-day validity period that the exam must be scheduled within. If you do not write the exam within the validity period, your NCLEX application will be cancelled and you forfeit the exam fee.

**EXAMINATION FEE**

(subject to change without notice)

$360 Payment must be submitted directly to Pearson Vue at the time of applying. Please refer to Pearson Vue's strict refund policy. CRNBC has no involvement with the examination fee/refund policy.
**Writing Centres**

The following are the available centres to write the examination in British Columbia. Please visit [www.pearsonvue.com](http://www.pearsonvue.com) for information about testing centers located elsewhere in Canada, USA, and internationally.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR ROUND</th>
<th>Vancouver (Burnaby), Surrey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>JUNE</strong></td>
<td>Nanaimo, Victoria, Kamloops, Prince George</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>specified dates linked here:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="https://crnbc.ca/Registration/exam/Pages/Exam_dates.aspx">https://crnbc.ca/Registration/exam/Pages/Exam_dates.aspx</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special Accommodation**

If you have a disability that could adversely affect your performance on the examination, you may request special accommodation to write the examination. Email kivari@crnbc.ca prior to applying with Pearson Vue to obtain the necessary forms to request special accommodation.

**Registration Examination Policies**

An applicant from a British Columbia recognized nursing education program must have successfully completed his or her nursing education program in order to be permitted to write the registration examination. The program must have been completed in the previous five years.

An applicant who is a graduate from a nursing education program outside of B.C. must meet all requirements for registration before writing the registration examination.

Measures and statistical procedures to detect cheating have been implemented by NCSBN and Pearson Vue. Any form of cheating is considered unethical behaviour. Cheating on the registration examination may lead to ineligibility for registration in British Columbia. This includes unauthorized disclosure of exam contents.

A candidate is eligible to write the registration examination three times only unless the CRNBC Board grants permission for a fourth or subsequent writing. This includes all writings of the CRNE, NCLEX, or other recognized entry to practice examinations.