



Key Messages

- The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia (CLPNNS) is very pleased to be collaborating with other provincial regulatory colleagues and Assessment Strategies Inc. to implement computer-based testing to deliver the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE®) starting in May 2016.
- The Regulators and Assessment Strategies Inc. have been working to make the transition from paper-and-pencil to computer-based testing a successful undertaking for those entering the profession and taking the CPNRE®.
- As Regulators, we know that technology is playing an enhanced role in the delivery of licensure/registration examinations. We want to be proactive and take advantage of opportunities technology offers. Computer-based testing allows test writers to take the CPNRE® on a computer in a proctored test centre. This allows Regulators to offer the CPNRE® more often and at more sites across Canada.
- Starting in 2016, there will be approximately 40 days available for test writers to take the computer-based examination. We will offer the CPNRE® via computer-based testing during two 4-week testing windows, May 23 to June 19, 2016 (approximately 20 days) and September 26 to October 23, 2016 (approximately 20 days). In 2017, there will be approximately 60 days available for test writers to take the computer-based examination.
- Assessment Strategies Inc. has a multi-year partnership with Pearson VUE to provide access to Pearson VUE's Canadian test centre network for Assessment Strategies Inc.'s clients.
- CLPNNS is pleased to announce that Assessment Strategies Inc. will continue to administer the CPNRE® which will be delivered in Pearson VUE's network of proctored test centres across Canada. The Regulators that will be offering the CPNRE® via computer-based testing include:
 - College of Licensed Practical Nurses of British Columbia
 - College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta
 - Saskatchewan Association of Licensed Practical Nurses
 - College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Manitoba
 - College of Nurses of Ontario
 - Association of New Brunswick Licensed Practical Nurses
 - College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia
 - Licensed Practical Nurses Registration Board of Prince Edward Island

Questions & Answers

Question: Why are you changing to computer-based testing?

- Using computers to deliver licensure/registration exams is widely accepted.
- Computer-based testing allows the CPNRE® to be offered more often and at more sites across Canada.

Question: Is the CPNRE® content going to change because of computer-based testing?

- The CPNRE® examination content will remain the same.
- The change simply means that test writers will answer examination questions directly on a computer in a test centre rather than responding to examination questions on a paper answer sheet.
- The CPNRE® will continue to be offered in English and French.

Question: When can the exam taken?

- Starting in May 2016, there will be approximately 40 testing dates available. We will offer the CPNRE® during two windows from May 23 to June 19, 2016 (approximately 20 days) and September 26 to October 23, 2016 (approximately 20 days).
- In 2017, there will be approximately 60 testing dates available.

Question: How is the change to computer-based testing beneficial?

- With computer-based testing there are more flexible options to take the exam. Test writers will not be tied to only one test date in one location at one time. Test writers will be able to choose from among several testing dates/times, across more than 100 cities and towns in Canada.

Question: Is anything different about how to register for the exam now that it is on a computer?

- Test writers will still apply to CLPNNS. The difference is after CLPNNS has confirmed eligibility to take the exam, test writers will be directed to a scheduling website to choose where and when to take the exam and schedule an appointment.

Question: Should preparing for computer-based testing be different than for the paper-and-pencil testing?

- The content of the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE®) has not changed.
- It covers the same entry-to-practice competencies as it did before.
- The CPNRE® has 180 multiple choice questions.
- Test writers will be able to try out computer-based testing through an on-line CBT demonstration available to them once confirmed eligible by CLPNNS to take the exam.

Question: Will the exam be more difficult?

- The exam items cover the same range of content and the standard used to establish the pass mark is computed the same way it always has been.

Question: What will happen if a test writer needs a special accommodation?

- As per the current practice, test writers requiring a special accommodation will make this request to CLPNNS.

Question: How can a test writer become familiar with the CBT technology?

- Assessment Strategies Inc. has a computer-based testing demo that test writers can take to gain experience with the features of the computer-based system. A demonstration guide will also be available.

Question: If test writers want to, can they still write the exam with the pencil-and-paper format?

- No. The CPNRE® will be offered in our jurisdiction via computer-based testing only.