

CRNE



Keeping You Informed

BULLETIN

THE CANADIAN REGISTERED NURSE EXAM (CRNE)

Each provincial or territorial nursing regulatory body is responsible for ensuring that the individuals it registers as nurses meet an acceptable level of competence before beginning practice.

The level of competence of registered nurses in all province or territories except Quebec is measured, in part, by the CRNE. The CRNE is developed by the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) and administered by the provincial and territorial regulatory authorities. The purpose of the CRNE is to protect the public by ensuring that the entry-level registered nurse possesses the competencies required to practise safely and effectively.

The CRNE competencies and blueprint are reviewed annually; however, because of changes occurring in nursing practice, an extensive review of the competencies tested on the exam is done every five years. This review process includes extensive consultation with nurses across Canada.

CHANGES TO THE CRNE COMMENCING IN JUNE 2005

UPDATING COMPETENCIES

In 2003, a new examination development cycle of the CRNE was launched. To date, an updated list of competencies for the exam to be introduced in June 2005 has been finalized. The update was done after extensive consultation with nurses across Canada from clinical practice, education and administration. The updated list of competencies has also been reviewed by the CRNE Council, which is made up of representatives from each of the provincial and territorial regulatory bodies who administer the exam.

In 2005, a new Canadian Registered Nurse Examination (CRNE) will be launched. Changes to the CRNE are currently underway and will include revised competencies, a new blueprint and the introduction of a new question format (short-answer questions). This bulletin is the first of a series to keep you informed on the upcoming changes.

DEVELOPING A NEW BLUEPRINT

Part of the five-year review cycle involves developing a new blueprint for the exam. This blueprint provides direction regarding the content to be measured on the CRNE, as well as explicit guidelines on how this content is to be measured. A new blueprint for the CRNE to be introduced in June 2005 is currently under development.

INTRODUCING NEW QUESTIONS AND A NEW FORMAT

Commencing in June 2005, the CRNE will feature changes that will better assess clinical decision-making, problem-solving and critical thinking skills within a clinical problem or situation. Case-based questions on the examination will be developed using the key features approach. This approach involves identifying key features (i.e., critical problem-solving steps) associated with nursing practice situations where the registered nurse would intervene. This approach was approved by the regulatory bodies who use the CRNE.



These questions will represent typical clinical problems encountered by entry-level registered nurses in day-to-day practice. They will be offered in a multiple-choice format and a new format – short-answer questions. The independent (stand-alone) questions on the exam will remain in the multiple-choice format.

WHAT DO THESE CHANGES MEAN FOR THE JUNE 2004 – JANUARY 2005 CRNE?

Experimental testing of questions is an integral step in the exam development process, and experimental questions are usually included with each examination writing. This means that questions to be introduced in June 2005, need to be tested commencing with the June 2004 exam.

Experimental questions are not normally distinguishable from the operational items on the examination. However, a new short-answer format will be introduced in questions being developed for the examination to be introduced in June 2005. This means that experimental items being tested on the June 2004 to January 2005 exams will appear in two formats, multiple-choice and short-answer.

Therefore, the experimental short-answer questions will be included in a *separate booklet* during the June 2004 to January 2005 examination cycle. Completion of this separate booklet is *optional*.

As a result, candidates writing the June 2004 to January 2005 examinations will be provided with additional time to complete the optional experimental short-answer questions. Jurisdictions will be asked to make the examination room and invigilators available for additional time at the end of the examination day for candidates who require extra time to complete the optional booklet.

Information on the optional completion of the experimental items will be shared with the jurisdictions so they can in turn share this information with candidates.

MORE INFORMATION TO COME

This bulletin provides an overview of the changes coming to the CRNE. Additional bulletins will be produced providing more detailed information over the coming months. Check with your provincial/territorial nursing regulatory body for copies of future bulletins.



The CRNE Bulletin is published by the Regulatory Policy Division of the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA).

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