



The new CRNE June 2010 – May 2015

In June 2010, a Canadian Registered Nurse Examination (CRNE), based on a revised set of competencies and blueprint, will be launched. This bulletin is intended to keep you informed of issues related to the CRNE and of the upcoming change. It provides information about the revised list of competencies and blueprint.

Guidelines on how the competencies are to be expressed within the examination are stated in the exam blueprint. Because of the changes that occur in nursing practice, the competencies and blueprint are reviewed annually and a comprehensive update is carried out at least every five years. This update process involves extensive consultation with registered nurses (RNs) and the nursing regulatory bodies from across Canada.

REVISED LIST OF COMPETENCIES

Canadian nurses and regulatory bodies have identified 148 competencies to be measured during the 2010-15 examination cycle. These competencies have been organized into a framework that reflects a primary health-care model. They are grouped under the categories of: Professional Practice (28 competencies); Nurse-Client Partnership (14 competencies); Health and Wellness (27 competencies); and Changes in Health (79 competencies). See chart in this bulletin for sample competencies.

The list of competencies and more detailed information on the competency framework is available in the CRNE Blueprint for purchase on CNA's website www.cna-aiic.ca.

BLUEPRINT

The blueprint directs how these competencies are to be measured on the exam. The blueprint also specifies the contextual and structural variables to be considered during the development of the exam. The contextual variables specify the nursing contexts in which the examination questions will be set (e.g. client, lifespan, diversity, health situations and practice environment). The structural variables determine the general design and appearance of the examination (e.g., examination length, question format and presentation, test equating and taxonomy for questions). The chart in this bulletin provides information on some of the structural and contextual variables included on the new CRNE. More comprehensive information is provided in the blueprint.



Competency Category	Sample Competencies
Professional Practice	Practises within the scope of practice of the registered nurse
	Advocates for equitable treatment and allocation of resources for the client
Nurse-Person Relationship	Applies the principles of a therapeutic nurse-client relationship and responds appropriately
	Demonstrates sensitivity to and respect for diversity in health practices and beliefs
Health and Wellness	Collaborates with clients to prioritize needs and develop prevention strategies
	Assists clients in understanding links between health promotion strategies and health
Changes in Health	Individualizes the plan of care to apply interventions consistent with the client's capacities, identified priorities and health situation
	Communicates accurate and relevant information about the client's health situation to appropriate health-care team members

Structural Variables		
Examination Length	180-200 operational questions*	
Question Presentation and Format	Format: Multiple choice questions	
	Presentation: Questions will be presented as case-based and independent questions	
Competency Categories	Percentage (%)	
	Professional Practice	14-24
	Nurse-client Partnership:	9-19
	Nursing Practice: Health and Wellness	21-31
	Changes in Health:	40-50
Contextual Variables		
Client	Questions will pertain to individuals, families, groups, populations and communities	
Lifespan	Questions will reflect health situations relevant to all life phases from preconception through to advanced age, including end of life	

*This number does not include the experimental questions that will appear on the CRNE.

The purpose of the CRNE is to protect the public by ensuring that nurses entering practice in Canada possess the competencies required to practise safely, effectively and ethically. The competencies (i.e., knowledge, abilities, skills, attitudes and judgment) on which the examination is based outline the content to be measured on the exam.

MORE INFORMATION

The *Blueprint for the Canadian Registered Nurse Examination June 2010 – May 2015* can be purchased from CNA's website: www.cna-aiic.ca.

The *RN Exam Prep Guide*, 5th edition, to be released in early 2010, will provide further information about the CRNE as well as practice questions, answers and explanations, references, test-taking strategies and study tips.

The *CRNE Readiness Test* based on the new CRNE blueprint is also being revised and will be available to candidates preparing for the June 2010 exam immediately following the February 2010 writing.

In addition to this bulletin, other published CRNE Bulletins are available on CNA's website, www.cna-aiic.ca.

This document has been prepared by CNA to provide information and support CNA in the pursuit of its mission, vision and goals, as established by the CNA Board of Directors.



The CRNE Bulletin is published by the Regulatory Policy department of the Canadian Nurses Association.

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