



NCLEX-RN® FACT SHEET

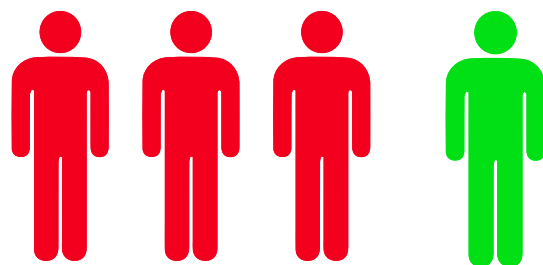
In 2011, Canada's nursing regulatory bodies, grouped under the Canadian Council of Registered Nurse Regulators (CCRNR), who are responsible for procuring the entry-to-practice exam for Canadian nurses (with the exception of Québec), issued a Request for Proposal for a new licensing exam. Their desire was to modernize the paper-based process through computer adaptive testing (CAT), accelerate the correction process, and enhance accessibility of the exam (ie. multiple availabilities to write throughout the year, availability of test centres).

In January 2015, the NCLEX-RN® was implemented as the entry-to-practice licensing exam in Canada (with the exception of Québec). This decision was made unilaterally from the CCRNR with little to no consultation with concerned stakeholders such as Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN), Canadian Nurses Association (CNA), faculty, and nursing student organizations, such as the Canadian Nursing Students' Association (CNSA). Despite their attempt to increase accessibility of the previous exam, there remains many issues in regards to the lack of accessibility of writing NCLEX-RN®, particularly for students in remote/rural areas or living in areas with poor quality of temporary test centres (CNSA chapter members, personal communication, January 28, 2016). In addition, there has been no published evidence that passing NCLEX-RN® ensures patient safety.^{1,2}

DID YOU KNOW

69.7%
NCLEX-RN®

87%
CRNE



- The first attempt passing rate for NCLEX-RN® at a national level is 69.7%,³ significantly lower than the first attempt passing rate for the Canadian Registered Nurse Exam (CRNE): 87%.⁴

- Francophone writers have a pass rate average of 27.1% on their first attempt, mainly attributed to poor translation and lack of preparatory materials in French. This is a significant concern in our bilingual country where Francophone students have a right to equal opportunities to succeed.⁷



- Higher failure rates mean a significant number of students are subject to additional emotional, psychological and economical stress incurred from having to write the exam multiple times.⁵ In addition to the NCLEX-RN® cost of \$360 CAD for each re-write, exam registration to the provincial regulatory body and preparatory resources (up to \$500 USD for each resource) are a large additional cost.



- Adoption of the NCLEX-RN® has caused Canadian nursing education institutions to adapt their curricula, thus forcing educational institutions to shift valuable educational content in order to accommodate for the necessary additional preparation work (CNSA chapter members, personal communication, January 28, 2016).
- Despite being labelled as an international exam, Canada is the only jurisdiction outside of the U.S. to adopt this entry-to-practice exam. Appropriate reflection of the Canadian health care system and values is compromised when adopting the licensing exam that was developed for another country using their nursing curriculum and jurisdictions.^{2,5}



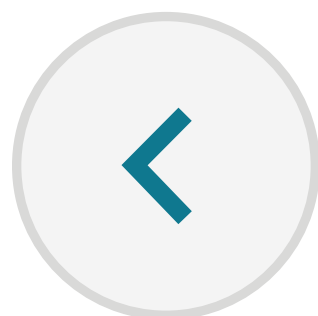
- Little to no consideration of cultural competence with respect to Canada's Indigenous peoples is reflected in the NCLEX-RN®, which impedes integration of Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) call to action.⁶



CNSA STANCE

In January 2016 at the CNSA National Assembly, delegates raised their concerns with the NCLEX-RN®.

CNSA strongly supports its constituents and will continue to advocate for students and take stronger actions until NCLEX-RN® issues are resolved.



It is of utmost importance that we educate ourselves and fight together to protect the future of Canadian nursing.

Follow CNSA on  
<http://www.cnsa.ca>

#EDUCATEYOURSELVES
#PROTECTNURSINGSFUTURE

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- ³ Canadian Council of Registered Nurse Regulators. (2016). *NCLEX-RN 2015: Canadian Results*. Retrieved from http://www.ccrnr.ca/assets/preparing_your_students_for_a_successful_nclex_experience_final.pdf
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- ⁵ CNSA Briefing Note. (January 2016). Retrieved from <http://cnsa.ca/wpcontent/uploads/2016/06/NCLEX-Briefing-Note-FINAL.pdf>
- ⁶ Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. (2015). *Truth and reconciliation committee of Canada: Calls to action*. Retrieved from http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf
- ⁷ Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador. (2016). *Review of the Quality of the French Translation of the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN®)*. Retrieved from https://www.arannl.ca/sites/default/files/Translation_Review.pdf