



CNSA | AEIC

Canadian Nursing Students' Association Association des étudiant(e)s infirmier(ère)s du Canada

Attn: David Benton, NCSBN
Cynthia Johansen, CCRNR
Canada Provincial Nursing Regulators

January 27, 2017

Re: Canadian Nursing Curriculum and NCLEX-RN® Preparatory Materials

I am writing this letter to express my concerns on the changes implemented into the Canadian nursing curriculum to accommodate third-party NCLEX-RN® preparatory materials.

Canadian nursing programs valued for their strength in education and teaching are being assessed by their NCLEX-RN® passing rates. The implementation of the NCLEX-RN® has forced schools of nursing to employ third-party preparation companies into their nursing programs (examples include: Evolve Elsevier, HESI, ATI). Students have reported that they are required to pay for third-party resources to successfully complete their nursing education. Completion of these NCLEX-RN® preparation programs has already become a mandatory component to graduating from several Canadian nursing programs.

For decades, the Canadian nursing curriculum has been proven to produce safe and proficient new graduate nurses caring for diverse individuals in Canada. The need for these additional resources is a clear indication of the differences that exist between the content tested on the NCLEX-RN® and the content taught by Canadian schools of nursing. Shifting Canadian nursing curriculum to adapt to the needs of the NCLEX-RN® is disreputable. It is not the established Canadian curriculum which needs to change, but the examination by which we are being tested. A Canadian entry-to-practice exam must fit our Canadian educational standards and nursing competencies. Failing to acknowledge the differences between Canadian competencies and American competencies is failing to provide patient-centred care for Canadian citizens.

Furthermore, application of unverified third-party resources is an unmerited use of student time and financial resources. All preparatory materials that exist are heavily based on American content and context. There are no verified NCLEX-RN® preparation materials available for Francophone nursing students. After completing their educational program students are subject to paying an additional \$1000 in preparatory materials. Despite completing an education in nursing, they feel unprepared to write a registration examination. Several students have reported spending 2-3 additional months after completing their nursing program to study for the NCLEX-RN® which translates into postponing practice. This means a longer wait from graduation to practice which may lead to increased patient safety risk.

Together with the Canadian Nursing Students' Association, I am in support of the urgent constructive dialogue and resolution of the issues and concerns associated with the current licensing exam, specifically to advocate and call for action to the current entry-to-practice exam by collaborating with jurisdictional regulatory bodies and Canadian nursing students until issues are fully resolved.

Sincerely,

(Signature & name)

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