



COLLEGE OF
LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES
OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Exam (CPNRE)

A registration exam is one of several requirements applicants must complete to become a Licensed Practical Nurse¹ in Canada. The LPN examination currently in effect in Newfoundland and Labrador is the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE), which is the property of Measure Learning.

The exam tests the knowledge, skill and judgment practical nurses need at the beginning of their careers. The CPNRE is used by a number of Regulatory Bodies in Canada to ensure new practical nurse applicants meet the entry to practice competencies. The exam is a Linear on the Fly Test (LOFT) modality that promotes enhanced security by giving every candidate a test that is equivalent in terms of content and difficulty, but questions vary allowing a different test form for each writer. The CPNRE is available to candidates in Newfoundland and Labrador in the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November, which are known as exam writing windows.

Research has demonstrated that when new graduates write the CPNRE at the first writing opportunity following graduation, they increase their likelihood of success. Additionally, international applicants may increase their likelihood of success if they obtain practice experience in Canada prior to writing the CPNRE.

¹ Registered Practical Nurse in Ontario

The following CLPNNL policy applies to the writing of the CPNRE:

1. An applicant is permitted to write the CPNRE no more than a total of 4 times over a 3-year period².
2. The three (3) year period begins on the earlier of, date of graduation, or the issuance of a temporary license; or for international applicants, from the time CLPNNL determines eligibility for licensure.
3. There must be a 45-day break between scheduled writings of the exam³.
4. A graduate from a CLPNNL approved practical nursing education program who obtains a temporary license to practice (see *Temporary Licensure Policy*) must⁴ write the CPNRE within the first writing window following issuance of a temporary license.
5. An international applicant who obtains a temporary license is encouraged to obtain practice experience prior to writing the CPNRE but must write the CPNRE within four (4) months following issuance of a temporary license.
6. Following an unsuccessful first (1st) CPNRE writing, a temporary license will be extended, and the applicant is permitted to practice, provided that:
 - The applicant notifies their employer(s) that they were unsuccessful on their first exam attempt; and,
7. The applicant registers for and writes the CPNRE within one of the next two (2) CPNRE writing windows. Following an unsuccessful second (2nd) CPNRE writing, a temporary license is voided, and the applicant cannot practice as an LPN until they are successful on the CPNRE.
8. Applicants who fail the CPNRE may, upon the payment of a fee, request that the registrar arrange for a rescoring of their examination.
9. Applicants requesting examination accommodations are directed to the Testing Accommodation Application forms on the CLPNNL website.
10. While an applicant to CLPNNL who is eligible to write the CPNRE may request a temporary license, it is not required in order to write the CPNRE.
11. Canadian PN graduates are encouraged to write the registration exam in the province of their PN education program. Otherwise, an applicant to CLPNNL may be required to undergo an assessment of their educational credentials.

² This policy is based on best practices advice from the exam provider, Meazure Learning

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⁴ An applicant in extenuating circumstances may request an exemption, in writing, to the Registrar.