Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE) Attempts

Effective: March 2022

INTRODUCTION

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses and Health Care Aides of Alberta (CLHA) has the authority under the *Health Professions Act* (HPA) to carry out its activities and govern Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs)[*] in a manner that protects and serves the public interest.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to explain the Council Policy on the *Certification of CPNRE Results*, including:

- Educational requirements needed to write the exam
- Number of exam attempts permitted
- Provisional registration and exam attempts
- Evidence of successful completion of the CPNRE

EXPLANATION

Successful completion of the CPNRE is required in order to be registered as an LPN on the general register. The following subsections provide guidance about the CPNRE.

Educational Requirements Needed to Write the CPNRE

In general, prior to being authorized to write the CPNRE, the applicant must have completed one of the educational requirements listed:

1) have received a diploma in practical nursing from a program approved by the CLHA Council;
2) have received a diploma or degree from a nursing program in Canada that is substantially equivalent[1] to an approved practical nursing program in Alberta; or

[*] In this document, "LPN(s)" has the same meaning as "regulated member(s)" in the *Health Professions Act.*

[1]Substantial equivalence is defined in section 28(2)(b) of the HPA as a registrant with current registration in another jurisdiction who has met their jurisdiction's competence and practice requirements for the profession (e.g., nursing).

3) have completed an educational program outside of Canada and have been assessed by the CLHA as substantially equivalent (please see policy on *Substantial Equivalence*).

Candidates who have successfully completed an approved refresher program are not required to rewrite the CPNRE.

Referrals to write the CPNRE will not be made for applicants if their educational requirements (as listed above) are more than four years old.

Number of Exam Attempts

An applicant may only attempt to write the CPNRE four times. If an applicant does not pass the CPNRE on the fourth attempt, the applicant will not be permitted to write the CPNRE any additional times unless the applicant successfully completes a practical nursing program a second time.

Provisional Registration as an LPN

The Council policy on the *Certification of CPNRE Results* further outlines the provisional registration provisions noted in the *Licensed Practical Nurses and Health Care Aides Profession Regulation* (LPNs and HCAs Profession Regulation).

The LPNs and HCAs Profession Regulation requires that provisional LPNs have their registration cancelled:

- if they have failed the CPNRE three times, regardless of the number of times they may be authorized to write the CPNRE; or
- after one year, regardless of the amount of time remaining for them to successfully pass the CPNRE.

An applicant may apply for provisional registration and to write the CPNRE at the same time, which would allow the provisional LPN to work as an LPN on the general register under supervision while waiting to write their exam and confirm their exam results.

An applicant has the option to apply to only write the CPNRE and not seek provisional registration. These are known as "CPNRE Only" applicants. A "CPNRE Only" applicant is not eligible to work as an LPN while waiting to write their exam.

A provisional registrant or "CPNRE Only" applicant wanting to write the exam through Alberta must be authorized by the CLHA to write the exam.

Evidence of Successful Completion of the CPNRE

Evidence of successful completion of the CPNRE means that the candidate achieved a pass on the exam and was not identified as breaching any exam rules.

Those who are not successful in passing the CPNRE and have had their registration on the general register denied can request a review by contacting the CLHA. Any requests to the CLHA must be made by an applicant in writing within 30 days of receiving finalized exam results.

CONCLUSION

This info sheet explains the educational requirements to write the CPNRE, the number of exam attempts, provisional registration, and evidence of successful completion as outlined in the Council Policy on the Certification of CPNRE Results. Applicants must ensure that they fulfill all necessary requirements to be able to write the CPNRE.

Documents are updated frequently. For the most current version and access to related documents and resources, please visit the Knowledge Hub on clha.com.

If after reading this document you have questions about this topic, please contact the CLHA's Registration Team at lpnregistration@clha.com, 780-484-8886 or 1-800-661-5877 (toll free in Alberta).