



INFO SHEET

CANADIAN PRACTICAL NURSE REGISTRATION EXAMINATION (CPNRE) ATTEMPTS

The legislative mandate of the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (CLPNA) is to serve and protect the public by ensuring its registrants deliver safe, competent, and ethical nursing care. An Info Sheet informs registrants on relevant nursing topics or the CLPNA's processes.

INTRODUCTION The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (CLPNA) has the legislative authority and responsibility, through the *Health Professions Act* (HPA), to carry out our activities in a manner that serves and protects the interest of the public. Through the registration process in Alberta the CLPNA manages access to the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE).

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

- 1) Educational requirements needed to write the exam
- 2) Number of exam attempts permitted
- 3) Provisional registration and exam attempts
- 4) 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 CLPNA Council;
- 2) have received a diploma or degree from a nursing program in Canada that is substantially equivalent¹ to an approved practical nursing program in Alberta; or
- 3) have completed an educational program outside of Canada and have been assessed by the CLPNA 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.

¹ Substantial equivalence is defined in section 28(2)(b) of the *Health Professions Act* 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).



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 Profession Regulation](#) (LPN Regulation).

The LPN Regulation requires that provisional registrants have their registration cancelled either

- 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 registrant to work as an LPN 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 CLPNA 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 CLPNA. Any requests to the CLPNA 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, 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. If after reading this document an applicant has any questions, including regarding exceptional circumstances that should be considered by the Registrar, they can contact the Registration Department at info@clpna.com or by phone at 780.484.8886 or Toll Free 1.800.661.5877 (Alberta only).