



Nurses Association
OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Q&A- Entry-to-practice Exam

At this time, are there alternative options to NCLEX-RN?

By 2015, when NCLEX-RN was first written in Canada, the testing bank for the previous exam had not been updated since 2008, despite the rapid and ever-changing dimensions of nursing practice and knowledge. In 2016, the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) began developing an exit exam for potential use as an entry- to- practice exam alternative. The processes used in exam development very different from NCLEX-RN, and exam content was developed based on the CASN knowledge framework and content previously used in the CRNE exam. The CASN exam does not focus on the most important and most frequently used competencies reported by new graduates, nurse managers and experienced clinicians, which is what is tested by NCLEX-RN. The CASN exam is currently in the development stage.