

## NANB Entry Examinations Standards Framework

### **Questions and Answers:**

#### **Why are entry exams necessary for the nursing profession?**

Nurses practice their profession in the public interest by attaining and maintaining knowledge and skills which support delivery of safe, competent, and ethical nursing care. During their initial year of practice, nursing graduate's transition from student status within a supportive learning environment, to independent graduate, and then to registered nurse (RN). As the regulator of registered nurses and nurse practitioners, NANB has the mandate to support safe, competent, and ethical nursing care delivery. One way to measure a nurse graduate's readiness to practice and competency in specific areas of practice is testing through an entry examination.

#### **Why was this framework developed?**

Entry exam development and administration must meet a minimum set of industry standards to be considered for use. The NANB Standards Framework identifies the applicable minimum standards that must be met for an entry to practice exam to meet the needs of NANB as a regulator. It may be useful for examination providers seeking to determine whether their products are suitable for an RN entry to practice examination in New Brunswick, as well as to our members and other stakeholders who seek a better understanding of the factors involved in selecting entry exams.

#### **How will the Framework be used?**

Examination providers seeking to market their exams to NANB may wish to undergo an independent assessment of whether they meet the minimum industry standards required by NANB as set out in the Standards Framework. NANB staff, board directors and committee members will refer to the Standards Framework (among other factors) when making decisions with respect to entry to practice exams.

The Framework is dynamic and will be reviewed for required updates on a regular schedule, so that best practices in industry standards are maintained over time.

#### **Do these standards apply only in New Brunswick?**

NANB has committed to the development of the Standards Framework for use specific to the nursing regulator in New Brunswick. While the Standards Framework itself was built specifically for the RN context in New Brunswick, the industry standards it incorporates (the ISO and NCCA Standards) are recognized throughout Canada and internationally. The Standards Framework simply identifies those industry standards that are applicable to the RN regulatory context in New Brunswick and presents them in a simplified and easily accessible framework.