REGISTERED NURSE (EXTENDED PRACTICE), RN(EP) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the requirements to register as an RN(EP)?

There are four requirements for registration as an extended practice registered nurse in Manitoba. They are:

1. Current registration as a practicing registered nurse in Manitoba.
2. Fulfillment of the education requirements including either:
   a. Graduation from the Masters of Nursing program (Nurse Practitioner major) of the Faculty of Nursing, University of Manitoba; or
   b. Graduation from a university nursing program in another jurisdiction that the board determines was, at the time of your graduation, substantially equivalent to the University of Manitoba program; or
   c. Graduation from a nursing program at an advanced level that the board determines was, at the time the of your graduation, able to prepare you to meet the competencies established by the board for extended practice nursing; or
   d. If you have not graduated from a nursing program mentioned in (a) to (c), then successful completion of an assessment of your ability to perform the competencies established by the board for extended practice nursing.
3. Evidence that you have passed an examination approved by the board in the competencies for extended practice nursing.
4. Payment of the fee provided for in the College's bylaws.

Is an RN(EP) the same as a Nurse Practitioner?

Yes. In 2008, the provincial government enacted changes to the Extended Practice Regulation of the Registered Nurses Act which adds title protection to the term Nurse Practitioner. As a result, those registered on the Registered Nurse Extended Practice or RN(EP) Register now have a choice of how they are referred to. They may call themselves either a Nurse Practitioner - or use the abbreviation NP or any variation; or they may call themselves a Registered Nurse (Extended Practice) - or use the abbreviation RN(EP) or any variation. For the purposes of clarity, all references to RN(EP) in this document will also apply to NPs.

What happens if I graduated from a program other than the University of Manitoba approved program?

There is a process for assessing your nursing education program to determine substantial equivalency. Contact Registration Services for more information about this. Education received outside of Canada will require assessment through the International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS). A link to IQAS is available on the College website.

Why do I need to provide my transcript when I can give you a copy of my degree?

It can be difficult to determine if any given degree meets the requirement as nursing education "at an advanced level." Your transcript provides more information about the types of courses you completed and provides the information we need for our decision making process.

What happens if I don't have a Master's degree?

There is a process in place to provide validation that you possess the competencies required for safe practice as an RN(EP) as indicated in 2(d) in the previous column. This process is the Acquired Learning Assessment. This process has two phases including:

- A prior learning assessment of formal and informal education, learning from work experience and evidence of knowledge and judgment; and,
- A clinical competence assessment which is an assessment of your clinical skills.

Contact Registration Services at the College for more information on this process.

Which exam will I have to pass?

There are five exams approved as meeting the requirements for registration as an RN(EP). They are:

- Canadian Nurse Practitioner Examination (CNPE);
- American Nurses Credentialing Centre (ANCC) Family Nurse Practitioner Exam;
- American Nurses Credentialing Centre (ANCC) Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Exam;
- American Nurses Credentialing Centre (ANCC) Adult Nurse Practitioner Exam; and,
- National Certification Corporation (NCC) Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Examination (2005).

Which exam you choose to write is up to you based on your needs and goals. Passing one of these exams is sufficient for registration.

Does the College offer writings for all of these exams?

Currently the College offers writings for the CNPE and the Adult and Pediatric ANCC Exams.

Is there a limit as to the number of times I can write the exam?

Yes. If you fail the exam, you will be permitted one additional writing of either exam. Should you fail the second writing (of either exam), you will be required to take a course of instruction, as determined by the College, prior to being permitted to write a third and final time.

What about accepting other exams?

The five exams approved by the Board are the only five that meet the requirements for registration as an RN(EP). For more information, contact Registration Services at the College.

How much does the exam cost?

In 2009, the fee for the CNPE is $1,196.28 and the fee for the ANCC exam is $866.25. These fees include the exam fee, administration fee and GST. The fee is payable with your application to write either exam.

Are there other costs related to the exam?

No. The College does not impose any additional costs.

Am I responsible for taking time off work and travel costs associated with the exam writing?

Yes. Obtaining time off work and costs associated with traveling to an exam writing are the responsibility of the applicant.

Where do I write the exam?

Exam locations are indicated on the application form. Typically, the writings take place in Winnipeg. Detailed information on your writing location and time will be sent to you once your application has been approved.

When will I get my exam results?

The turnaround time between writing of the exam and reporting of results is 4 to 6 weeks for the ANCC exam. The turnaround time for the CNPE is 6 to 8 weeks.

Is there a prep guide for the exams available?

The Canadian Nurse Practitioner Examination: Family/All Ages Prep Guide is available to purchase from the Canadian Nurses Association at (800) 361-8404 or on the web at www.cna-aiic.ca/bookstore/

A prep guide for the ANCC exam is available through the ANCC website at http://nursingworld.org/ancc/

Do I have to write the first available exam like I did when I graduated and registered as an RN?

No. Requirements for the RN(EP) register are different. You can choose which exam you wish to write and apply for the writing that best suits your needs.

How do I begin?

Begin by completing an application for registration as an extended practice registered nurse. The application form is available from the College and is also available on the website. Once you have met the education requirement for registration, you can apply to write the exam. The exam application form is available from the College and on the website.

Where can I find information about RN(EP)?

The best place to access current information about the RN(EP) is the College website at www.crnm.mb.ca You can also contact Registration Services at the College for information.

For more information, please contact a CRNM Nursing Practice or Registration Consultant at (204) 774-3477 or (800) 665-2027 (Manitoba toll-free)

This publication is provided for general information. For more specific information, see the CRNM *Standards of Practice for Registered Nurses*, the Canadian Nurses Association *Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses* and the Registered Nurses Act and Regulations. CRNM publications are available on our website at www.crnm.mb.ca

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