New update on NCLEX-RN
Number of Writes - Change in Requirements
Questions and Answers
March 23, 2017

1. **Has the bylaw to increase the number of NCLEX-RN attempts been approved?**
    On March 10, 2017, the SRNA received notice that the Minister of Health has approved amendments to the bylaw related to exam eligibility requirements. The bylaw will be brought to the SRNA membership for their review and approval at the Annual Meeting in May 3, 2017.

2. **Will the new bylaw need membership approval prior to coming into effect?**
    No, with the Minister of Health's approval, the bylaw came into effect on March 10, 2017. The SRNA has been actively communicating with the membership since the summer 2016 regarding the importance of the bylaw, as well as the progress regarding its implementation. It is anticipated that the membership will be in support of the bylaw at the annual meeting.

3. **What does the new bylaw mean to the SRNA exam policy?**
    This means that effective March 10, 2017, the SRNA has removed the requirement that the NCLEX-RN must be passed within three (3) attempts.

4. **What specifically does the new bylaw mean for graduates requiring a rewrite?**
    It means that as of January 1, 2015, to be eligible a graduate must write and pass the NCLEX-RN exam within three years of the date of completion of the registered nursing program. A person admitted as an Internationally Educated Nurse must write and pass the NCLEX-RN exam within three years of the date of becoming eligible to write the exam. An applicant is only allowed to reschedule the NCLEX-RN after 45 days following the day an examination was written.

5. **How will the SRNA notify applicants who are eligible under the new bylaw?**
    Starting today all SRNA writers who are eligible will be notified by email.

6. **Who do I contact to see if I am eligible for the additional exam writes?**
    Contact our registration staff at exams@srna.org

7. **What is the SRNA doing to support applicants to pass the NCLEX-RN?**
    The SRNA provides presentations to students on the exam and licensure, posts resources on the SRNA website, conducts surveys, interviews applicants who require an exam rewrite, and meets regularly with the nursing schools to discuss ways to support students. The SRNA has seen an increase in first-time and ultimate pass-rates (UPR) and remains optimistic about ultimately how many applicants write and pass the exam and become RNs. (The UPR is a measure of how many writers have ultimately succeeded in passing the exam and are available to the health workforce once they received their licence.)

8. **How does allowing an applicant to write an exam more than three times ensure public safety?**
    The design, format and psychometric properties of the NCLEX-RN ensures that an applicant is being tested on nursing competencies, which are critical in the beginning of their career. The exam also minimizes the chance of an applicant passing the exam for other reasons, such as exam familiarity. Also, the registration exam is only one component of registration and licensure in Saskatchewan. An applicant must demonstrate and meet all the other requirements to be registered, and issued a licence to practise registered nursing.

9. **Currently, a Graduate Nurse (GN) can hold a licence to practise for three 4-month periods, or until they fail the exam three times. Will this change?**
    No, this bylaw will remain in effect. A temporary licence is cancelled upon notice the member has failed the required examination for the third time.

10. **If an applicant failed the Canadian Registered Nurse Examination (CRNE) three times, will they be eligible to write the NCLEX-RN?**
    Eligibility for licensure and the registration exam is determined by the existing regulatory requirements. Prior to January 1, 2015, the CRNE could only be attempted three (3) times. Under the new bylaw, applicants who wrote the CRNE three times and failed are not eligible to write the NCLEX-RN. If you have a question about whether you may qualify, contact us at register@srna.org or call 1-800-667-9945 for additional information.