



Nurses Association
OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Q&A- Entry-to-practice Exam

Other countries do not use an exam to test nursing graduates.

Why is it necessary in Canada?

Countries such as Australia and the UK no longer use nursing entry-to-practice exams. However, in those countries extensive work was completed and changes implemented that have not yet happened in Canada. Some differences include: a) accreditation or review of nursing programs by a multi-disciplinary team of educators, regulators, public representatives and employers; b) nursing regulators have complete authority over nursing education programs; and c) nursing educators and nursing regulators must provide specific indicators of performance to government on a regular schedule.

In Canada accreditation and review of nursing programs is completed by nursing educators only, and university faculty maintain authority regarding the content of nursing programs. At times, this approach can result in a disconnect between what is taught/learned during university and what is required during the beginning of practice as a nurse graduate. An entry-to-practice exam therefore remains in place in all Canadian provinces to help ensure nursing graduates are able to provide safe, competent nursing care.