



Q&A- Entry-to-practice Exam

Is the NCLEX-RN an American exam? Why is it used in Canada?

While the developer of the NCLEX-RN is based in the United States, it is incorrect to say that it is an American exam.

A prior version of the NCLEX-RN examination existed in the United States for many years. However, that American Exam is distinct and unique from the version of the NCLEX-RN exam that has been administered throughout Canada since January 1, 2015. Prior to the introduction of the NCLEX-RN into Canada, the American exam underwent a comprehensive adaptation and translation process to remove and replace all American content with content appropriate to the Canadian context in both official languages. This adaptation and translation process occurred over a period of several years prior to 2015. It was completed in accordance with internationally-recognized standards and best practice and included review of each and every examination question by boards of Canadian nurse graduates, educators and regulators to ensure that the content was suitable for Canada.

Thus, while the NCLEX-RN exam provider is based in the United States, all examination questions were adapted and reviewed by Canadian nurses before the exam was introduced in Canada. The current version of the NCLEX-RN is the only North American nursing exam that focuses on the most important and frequently used nursing competencies during the first six to eight months of patient care practice.