

INTRODUCTION

This information is prepared for psychiatric nurses and new graduates of psychiatric nursing programs who are preparing to write the Registration Examination. The purpose of this pamphlet is to ensure that you are provided with information about the format of the exam, so that you can be as well prepared as possible.

You may already have a satisfactory study plan in place and this information can assist you with your plan and provide you with some resources you may not be familiar with.

First, it is important to understand how the exam is constructed and the form in which it is presented.

1. Examination Content

The exam is presented as a mixture of case scenarios and independent questions. All questions are multiple-choice. There are no essay type questions. The examination is organized in “situations” - a total of 40-50 in all. The content areas presented to test your “safety to practice” were selected from those that are commonly found in actual clinical areas. The registration exams content is as follows:

- Questions that are based on physiological issues comprise approximately 40% of the questions
- Questions based on psychological issues comprise the remaining 60%

Questions cover the competencies expected of a practicing psychiatric nurse and the scenarios address a wide variety of contexts and situations commonly experienced by practicing RPNs. There are 2 types of questions on the exam - single answer and multi-multi e.g.

Single Answer Type: (example)

The Nurse administers each of the following medications to various clients. The client who should be most carefully assessed for fluid and electrolyte imbalance is the one receiving:

1. Lithium
2. Clozapine
3. Diazepam
4. Amitriptyline

Multi-Multi Type: (example)

A patient with depression does not respond to drug therapy. At a team conference, staff members recommend electroconvulsive therapy (ECT). The nurse knows that most people respond emotionally to the thought of an electric current passing through the brain. Therefore, when discussing ECT with the patient, the nurse should:

1. Use the term “shock”
2. Refer to the procedure as a “treatment” instead of “shock therapy”
3. Refer to the procedure as ECT in a calm manner
4. Speak in a neutral, calm manner when discussing with the patient
5. Encourage the patient to accept ECT as the solution to his depression

A. 1, 3, 5

B. 1 & 5

C. 2, 4

D. 2,4,5

The examination is also divided into four sections or booklets. Each booklet contains approximately 100 questions.

2. Time Limits

You are given 2.5 hours to complete each examination booklet. This is ample time (most candidates finish early) so there is no need to feel rushed. You should, however, read carefully and work at a steady pace.

3. Passing Score

To successfully pass the examination, you must achieve at least 60% correct responses overall. Should you not pass the exam, you should seek direction from the Deputy Registrar of the CRPNBC on the options available to you.

4. Reporting Test Results

The CRPNBC will mark your exam and compile your test results as quickly as possible and your marks will be mailed to you within 7 days of your exam sitting. Please do not phone the CRPNBC for exam results unless instructed to do so.

5. Re-scoring of Your Exam

If you are unsuccessful, you may request a “re-scoring” of your exam.

6. Rewriting of the Exam

Unsuccessful candidates may rewrite the exam a maximum of two times. Rewriting of the exam may be contingent on the candidate being able to demonstrate to the CRPNBC that he/she has sought direction (such as tutoring) in preparing for the exam. Current exam fees apply to all rewritings of the exam

7. Registration

Applications to write the examination must be submitted to CRPNBC.

8. Test Administration

The examination is conducted on two consecutive weekdays, from 0900-1130 hrs. and from 1300-1530 hrs. Please plan on arriving at least 20 minutes early in order to proceed through the signing process. CRPNBC will send you information about the specific location, dates and time.

9. Candidate Identification

When signing in for each session, you will be required to present picture identification and the Registration Examination Identification Card to the invigilator (sent to you by the CRPNBC).

10. What to Bring With You to the Exam

You will require no special equipment. The CRPNBC will provide the necessary supplies.

11. General Rules

No cell phones or calculators permitted prior to entering the exam room. Purses, backpacks and briefcases must be left with the invigilator. Please be on time for the exam. Late comers could be refused admission if the exam is in progress. Do not ask the invigilator(s) questions pertaining to exam content. They are not permitted to provide explanations or information regarding the content or meaning of a question or questions. Please remember, you are a professional and conduct yourself accordingly.

Resources

Preparing for a “comprehensive” examination can be somewhat overwhelming but there are a number of resources available to assist you:

Self Study:

You may choose to prepare for the exam by reviewing some or all of the following books.

- Mosby's Canadian Comprehensive Review of Nursing (latest edition) Toronto: Mosby
- Psychotropic Agents (latest edition) Ralph, Irene Grand Forks, B.C.: IGR Publications; www.igrpublications.com Phone/Fax (250) 442-1224
- Addictions and Mental Health (latest edition) Ralph, Irene Grand Forks, B.C.: IGR Publications www.igrpublications.com Phone/Fax (250) 442-1224
- Foundations of Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Varcarolis E.M. 2002 Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Company
- Review Series Psychaitric Mental Health Nursing and Medical Surgical Nursing Lippincott's or Mosby's (both companies produce “rapid” and “comprehensive” review texts)
- Mental Health and Psychiatric Nursing (latest edition) Springhouse Notes Pennsylvania: Springhouse Company
- Adult Health Nursing (latest edition) Beare P.G., Myers J.L. Toronto: Mosby

Books are available by contacting Lippincott or Elsevier Science Canada Publishers (for all Mosby and Saunders texts) on the Internet, OR by searching Amazon.com for new or used copies, OR through Chapters Bookstores throughout BC, OR at UBC Bookstores (12th Ave. & Heather Street, Vancouver or West Mall at UBC site).

Tutoring:

Exam preparation Course is available from the following sources:

1. John Collins Consulting

Contact Person: John Collins
Phone: 778-882-2413

E-Mail: isnhs@shawbiz.ca

2. **Douglas College Psychiatric Nursing Refresher Program**
Program Assistant, Continuing Education Health Sciences
Phone: 604-777-6527
www.DouglasOnlineHealth.com

**College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses
of British Columbia**

**Orientation To The
Registration Examination
For
Psychiatric Nurses**

