



Registered Nurse  
Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) Examination (NCLEX-RN)  
Frequently Asked Questions

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5 January 2021

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency  
National Boards  
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Ahpra and the National Boards regulate these registered health professions: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice, Chinese medicine, chiropractic, dental, medical, medical radiation practice, midwifery, nursing, occupational therapy, optometry, osteopathy, paramedicine, pharmacy, physiotherapy, podiatry and psychology.

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## Contacting the IQNM exam team

Candidates can email the IQNM exam team directly at [IQNMexams@Ahpra.gov.au](mailto:IQNMexams@Ahpra.gov.au).

Candidates may also call **1300 419 495** and, if needed, the Customer Service Team can escalate matters to the IQNM exam team directly.

## Registering for your NCLEX-RN Examination

### Where do I go to register for the MCQ exam?

Candidates will be directed to the NCLEX-RN registration site via the link on their IQNM dashboard.

### Can I register using a paper form?

To register for the NCLEX-RN candidates must submit their online form via the link provided on the IQNM dashboard.

### Does my registration expire?

Candidates registration are open for 365 days once submitted.

### Is there a closing date for the submission of my NCLEX-RN MCQ registration form?

Candidates who have been notified that they are eligible to undertake the NCLEX-RN MCQ Exam, do not have a closing date for submission of their registration. Candidate will be asked to make payment of the registration fee at the time of submission.

## Paying the NCLEX-RN MCQ registration fee

### Where do I go to pay the fee?

Payment of the NCLEX-RN MCQ registration fee is processed when the candidates submits their registration form online. The IQNM exams team are unable to approve any authorisation to test requests until this payment is made.

More information regarding the payment of fees can be found in the MCQ Examination (NCLEX-RN) Registered Nurse Candidate Handbook located on the [Registered Nurse – Examination](#) webpage.

### How much is the registration fee for the NCLEX-RN MCQ?

The fees for the NCLEX-RN MCQ are as follows:

Fee type	Fee Amount
Registration fee	\$200 USD
Additional International Scheduling fee (+ Value Assess Tax or VAT where applicable)	\$150 USD

### **Is the registration fee refundable?**

There will be no refund of registration fees (telephone, or via the Internet) for any reason, including but not limited to:

- Duplicate Registrations (candidates cannot have more than one active registration for the same exam)
- Failure to reschedule and/or cancel an exam appointment outside of 24 business hours
- Failure to appear for an exam appointment

There will be no refund of the international scheduling fee for any reason. If you can no longer attend the examination date you have selected and need to re-schedule, please refer to the ***Changing your scheduled examination*** section in the MCQ Examination (NCLEX-RN) Registered Nurse Candidate Handbook located on the [Registered Nurse – Examination](#) webpage.

### **I've paid my fee, but have yet to receive a confirmation email?**

Candidate's that have not received confirmation of their NCLEX registration within two days of submitting a registration form online, should call **NCLEX Candidate Services** to check the status of the registration.

Candidates are advised that they should not submit another NCLEX registration and fee before calling. If a candidate decides to submit an additional NCLEX registration, they should first stop payment on the original payment submitted.

### **Approval and release of Authorizations to Test (ATT)**

#### **How long will it take to get my Authorization to test (ATT)?**

Processing of Authorisation to Test's (ATT) are usually completed within 2-4 weeks of the submission of the registration.

However, if the IQNM exam team find differences in the information supplied between the candidates Ahpra account and the Pearson VUE registration form this will delay the processing of your ATT, as your accounts cannot be verified.

#### **How long is the ATT valid for?**

ATT's are valid for 90 days from the date of approval\*  
Candidates should attempt to undertake the MCQ exam in this timeframe where possible.

If it is impossible to do so due to extenuating circumstances, please contact the IQNM exam team for further assistance.

\*Due to the current pandemic ATT's are initially being approved for 180 days to allow for ease of access to test centres for candidates.

#### **How many exam sittings can I use my ATT for?**

Each ATT is valid for one (1) exam sitting only. Should you be unsuccessful in the NCLEX-RN MCQ first time around, you will need to re-register and pay a second fee to be issued with a second ATT.

Regardless of the number ATT you are applying for the 2-4 weeks processing time is still applicable.

## **Can I extend my ATT?**

ATT's can only be extended for candidates who have extenuating circumstances that are impacting them from being able to undertake the examination. This may include but not be limited to:

- Location of test centres not available to candidates – Countries such as the United Arab Emirates do not have any test centre locations, forcing candidates to travel to alternative locations to undertake the exam.
- Lack of available appointments in smaller test centre locations – Some test centres such as Philippines, are smaller in size and therefore cannot offer as many examination seats for candidates.

Candidates that may be affected by other extenuating circumstances and need to request an extension of their ATT, are advised to contact the IQNM exam team to discuss further.

## **Scheduling your exam date**

### **How do I schedule my examination date?**

Once their ATT is received, candidates can schedule their examination by logging into their Pearson VUE account and booking a time and date as available at their chosen test centre.

Alternatively, candidates can also call Pearson VUE to schedule their exam. Please refer to the NCLEX-RN related contacts page in the MCQ Examination (NCLEX-RN) Registered Nurse Candidate Handbook located on the [Registered Nurse – Examination](#) webpage

### **Will I receive a confirmation that my exam has been booked?**

Once you have confirmed the preferred date of your examination, you will be sent a confirmation email. This will include the details of your chosen exam time and date and the details and location of the Examination centre you have chosen to sit the exam at.

### **Is there a closing date for scheduling my NCLEX-RN MCQ Exam?**

Candidates who have paid their NCLEX-RN MCQ fee and have received their Authorisation to test confirmation have 90 days to schedule and undertake their MCQ examination.

### **Where is the NCLEX-RN MCQ Exams held?**

The NCLEX-RN MCQ Examinations are delivered in many locations across the international landscape. For more information regarding examination locations within both the US and in international locations, please refer to the [Testing Locations](#) section on the NCSBN website.

### **What dates are available, and can I book a date 6 months in advance?**

Examination dates will be offered to candidates within the validity dates of the ATT they have received. If your ATT is valid for 6 months you may book that far in advance should you wish to.

If you are unavailable for the dates you have been provided from Pearson VUE, please contact the IQNM exam team to discuss if you are eligible for an extension of your ATT.

### **Can I cancel my examination?**

If for any reason you are not able to undertake your NCLEX-RN MCQ examination on the selected date, you need to reschedule the appointment via the Pearson VUE website or by calling the Pearson VUE NCLEX candidate services team as soon as possible.

More information on scheduling and changing appointment times can be found on the [Changing an Appointment](#) section of the NCSBN website.

### **Can I reschedule my NCLEX-RN MCQ examination?**

Requests to reschedule an NCLEX-RN MCQ Examination must be received at least one (1) full business days (24 hours) before your scheduled exam date and time as described below:

- For exams scheduled on **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday**, call Pearson VUE at least 24 hours in advance of the date and time of your appointment local standard time.
- For exams scheduled on **Saturday, Sunday or Monday**, call Pearson VUE no later than Friday and at least 24 hours in advance of your appointment time local standard time.

National holidays from your location should also be considered when deciding whether to reschedule an examination as offices may be closed.

**NOTE:** Leaving a message on an answering machine does not constitute giving the required notice for rescheduling or cancelling your exam appointment. Examination appointments should only be considered rescheduled or cancelled when you have received a confirmation of this being completed by the IQNM exams team.

### **Booking Travel and Accommodation**

#### **Am I to arrange travel to and from the exam, or does the IQNM exam team do that for me?**

Candidates who are not local to their test centre location and are required to travel to be able to attend the examination are expected to arrange this at their own cost.

The IQNM exam team take no responsibility in the coordination of travel or accommodation for candidates.

#### **Will the IQNM exam team reimburse me for any of my travel and accommodation costs?**

No, the IQNM exam team does not reimburse any costs incurred to candidates in relation to their ability to travel to and from their chosen test centre location.

#### **I've paid my NCLEX-RN MCQ fee, should I book my travel and accommodation now?**

It is recommended to not book travel until you have received confirmation that your examination is scheduled from Pearson VUE. This is to ensure you are able to book the most convenient travel and accommodation in relation to the exam date and session you are allocated to.

## Examination Preparation

### Are there any preparatory courses I can complete to assist in preparing for the exam?

The NMBA and Ahpra do not endorse any external NLCEX-RN MCQ preparation programs. For more information on relevant reading material to access, please refer to the [Before the Exam](#) section of the NCSBN website.

### Where do I find the details of my scheduled date and time for the exam?

The details of your scheduled examination date and time will be accessible to you via your Pearson VUE account. You will also receive a confirmation email that will also include these details

### What time do I need to arrive on Examination day?

Arrival times and exam location details can be found included in the candidate confirmation email provided to you by Pearson VUE.

### Can I choose the time of my Examination session?

Yes, candidates are able to choose a time and date from a selection offered to them by Pearson VUE at the time of requesting availability.

### What should I bring to the exam with me?

Please refer to the Candidate confirmation email or the MCQ Examination (NCLEX-RN) Registered Nurse Candidate Handbook located on the [Registered Nurse – Examination](#) webpage for information regarding exam day requirements and advice regarding what to bring with you.

### Why do you request that I surrender my electronic devices?

Although, we ask you to surrender your devices it is important to note that neither the Invigilators, other candidates or yourself will have access to them during the examination. This is done to ensure confidentiality of the examination and its content.

## Examination Day

### How long will the NCLEX-RN MCQ exam take?

**Candidates** will have up to five hours to complete the **NCLEX-RN MCQ** exams: total exam time includes an introductory screen, two pre-programmed optional breaks and any unscheduled breaks you may take.

### How many questions will there be?

Candidate will need to answer a minimum of 75 questions and will have a maximum of 145 question to complete the exam.



### **Do I get access to any breaks during the exam?**

Candidates will be able to access two pre-programmed breaks during the examination. The first optional break is offered after two hours of testing. The second optional break is offered after three and one-half hours of testing.

- You must leave the testing room during all breaks.
- All personal items accessed during breaks (including purses, wallets, etc.) may be inspected by the Test Administrator (TA).
- You will be required to provide a palm vein scan before and after your break.
- **All breaks count against testing time.**

### **Can I ask for assistant during the examination?**

If you need extra note boards or an unscheduled break during the examination, you can do so by requesting this from a Test Administrator (TA). Please rise your hand and wait for the TA to offer you the assistance you require.

The TA is unable to assist you with the question included in the examination.

## **After the Examination**

### **How are the results processed?**

As part of the quality control process, every NCLEX® is scored twice: once by the computer at the test center and again after the examination record has been transmitted to Pearson VUE.

Candidate results are transmitted electronically to the nursing regulatory body (NRB) in the jurisdiction where the candidate has applied for licensure/registration. Each NRB has developed its own procedure for distributing results to candidates.

It can take up to six (6) weeks to receive your official results. Do not call Pearson VUE, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN®) or your NRB for the results as they will not be released over the telephone.

### **How long do results take to be released?**

Results are sent to candidates within **six (6) weeks** of their examination date. Candidates will receive a formal notification of their result via email which will detail their result and the next steps in their IQNM journey.

### **I've passed my OSCE, what do I need to do now?**

Candidates who pass their NCLEX-RN MCQ will be eligible to undertake the RN OSCE and the steps to begin this process will be available to them on their IQNM dashboard.

### **I've failed my NCLEX-RN MCQ, how soon can I re-sit the examination?**

Candidates who fail the NCLEX-RN MCQ can apply to re-sit the examination as soon as they have received their result notification. Firstly, by ensuring the fee for their next NCLEX-RN MCQ has been paid via their existing Pearson VUE account.

You will need to be authorized to test for a second time and this may take up to 4 weeks to be completed. Once authorised a new ATT will be sent to you by Pearson VUE and you can then schedule your next exam. However, you will be unable to schedule an appointment should the date fall within 45 days of your previous examination sitting.

### **What does the number of items I answered tell me about my results?**

It is important to understand that the length of your NCLEX or the number of items answered is not an indication of a specific pass or fail result. A candidate with a relatively short examination may pass or fail just as a candidate with a long examination may pass or fail. Each candidate, regardless of the length of their examination, has ample opportunity to demonstrate their true ability and is given an examination that conforms to the NCLEX-RN® Test Plan. Many candidates' examinations will end before the maximum number of items has been administered.

Please do not be concerned if your examination finishes earlier or lasts longer than other candidates. The length of your examination is determined solely by your performance on the examination. The differing lengths of each candidate's examination are an illustration of computerized adaptive testing (CAT) at work.

### **What if I ran out of time?**

When a candidate runs out of time before completing the maximum number of items, the candidate will pass if their ability estimate has remained above the passing standard for the last 60 items.

The candidate will fail if their ability estimate was below the passing standard for any of the last 60 items. This, however, does not mean that you have to answer the last 60 items correctly