



The Nova Scotia College of Nursing (NSCN) is the regulatory body for licensed practical nurses (LPNs), registered nurses (RNs) and nurse practitioners (NPs) in Nova Scotia. Our mandate is to protect the public by promoting the provision of safe, competent, ethical and compassionate nursing services by our registrants.

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CONGRATULATIONS!

You are eligible to apply for an LPN conditional licence and to take the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE).

This document was developed to provide you with information to help you make the decisions that is best for your circumstance.

YOU HAVE OPTIONS!

You **do not need** to decide or act today. Take some time and consider the following four options to choose which one is best for you. You can:

1. Get a conditional licence *and* take the CPNRE now.
2. Get a conditional licence now. Take the CPNRE at a later date.
3. Take the CPNRE now. Get a conditional licence at a later date.
4. Do nothing right now. Get a conditional licence *and* take the CPNRE at a later date.

See the infographic at the end of this document for more information.

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

The following are also for your consideration:

- A job offer from an employer in Nova Scotia or Canada is usually required to be eligible to immigrate to Canada.
- You are eligible for a conditional licence now. The conditional licence is not active, until you log into the Applicant Portal and pay the fee to activate it.
- Your conditional licence expires four months from the day you activate it.
- You do not need to activate your conditional licence to write the CPNRE.
- Unless it is required for immigration purposes¹, you do not have to activate your conditional licence until you arrive in Canada.

Another Option

As an internationally educated registered nurse, you can choose to get licensed as an RN or LPN in Nova Scotia. Click [here](#) to read more about the differences in the scopes of practice of RNs and LPNs. Email registration@nscn.ca if you have questions about which category of nurse is best for you.

TO HELP YOU DECIDE

The following information can help you decide what option is best for you.

1. What is the difference between “eligible for a conditional licence” and “having or holding a conditional licence”?

- **Eligible for a conditional licence** means you meet the requirements to apply for a conditional licence.
- **Having or holding a conditional licence** means you have “activated” your licence by paying the licence fee.

¹ Processes may vary, so **please** verify this with your local immigration officials.

2. Do I need a conditional licence to start the immigration pathway to Nova Scotia?

- A job offer is usually required to start the immigration process.
- Being eligible for a conditional licence **may** be enough for immigration to grant you a work permit when you get a job offer².
- If this is the case, **you do not** have to activate your conditional licence until you arrive in Canada and are ready to begin working as a nurse.



3. If I choose to wait to activate my conditional licence, when will my eligibility for a conditional licence expire?

- If you are living in Canada, it expires 12 months from the date you were first made eligible by NSCN.
- If you are not living in Canada, it expires 12 months from the date you arrive in Canada to work.

4. When does my eligibility to write the CPNRE expire?

- Your eligibility for the CPNRE does not expire.

5. When do my application documents expire?

- The Verification of Registration (VOR) expires 24 months after the date it was issued.
- The Criminal Record Check (CRC) expires six months after it was issued.
- **We will work with you to find a reasonable solution if either of these documents expire before you can activate your conditional licence.**

6. How long are conditional licences valid?

- Once activated, a conditional licence is valid for four months from the date it was issued.

7. How many conditional licences can I have?

- You may be eligible to have up to three, four-month conditional licences for a maximum of 12 months.
- You are no longer eligible for a conditional licence if you fail the registration exam three times.

8. If I choose to activate my conditional licence now, what do I do when it is nearing its expiration date?

- **Two weeks before** your conditional licence expires, email registration@nscn.ca to request a renewal of your conditional licence.
- The team will provide you with instructions.
- You must activate your next conditional licence by logging in to the portal and paying the fee.

9. What do I do if my conditional licence expires, or I am no longer eligible for more conditional licences?

- If you are working in Nova Scotia, you must stop practising *and* notify your employer immediately.
- You may continue to write the CPNRE and you may qualify for a practising licence when you pass.
- More details about conditions and restrictions on the conditional licence can be found [here](#).

² Processes may vary, so **please** verify this with your local immigration officials.

10. How many times can I write the CPNRE?

- You can write the CPNRE three times. You are not eligible to hold a conditional licence after the third failed attempt.

11. How long will it take me to receive my exam results?

- CPNRE results are generally released within four weeks of taking the exam.

12. Do I need to notify my Nova Scotia employer that I have passed or failed the exam?

- Yes. You must immediately notify your Nova Scotia employer that you have passed or failed the registration exam.

13. How often can I write the CPNRE?

- You may write the CPNRE every two months or as it is offered.

14. Where can I take the CPNRE?

- You can take the CPNRE anywhere in the world if your internet service and computer equipment meet the minimum requirements for connecting to the online proctoring service.

15. I have written and passed the CPNRE. Do I need to re-write the exam for NSCN?

- No. You do not need to re-write the exam.
- You must arrange for the regulatory body where you wrote the CPNRE to send your results directly to NSCN as we cannot accept them from you.

I AM READY TO ACTIVATE MY CONDITIONAL LICENCE

Step 1	Log in to the Applicant Portal .
Step 2	Click on 'My Invoices' and select the \$ next to the conditional licence fee (LPN \$58.65).
Step 3	Review the invoice and click pay.
Step 4	Make sure your status has been updated to reflect the activated conditional licence.
Step 5	Click print to print your receipt.
Your conditional licence is valid for four months from this date.	

I AM READY TO TAKE THE CPNRE

To get approval to take the CPNRE, you must first apply and pay a fee to NSCN.

Things to consider before you begin:

- Fees are non-refundable
- When asked about your country of study and international initial entry to practice nursing program, **do not** include any program or education you may have completed in Canada

Step 1	Log in to the Applicant Portal .
Step 2	Click on 'My Invoices' and select the \$ next to the CPNRE fee (\$701.50).
Step 3	Review the invoice and click pay.
Step 4	Click here to view the upcoming CPNRE exam windows.
Step 5	Email registration@nscn.ca to let us know you have paid the fee and your preferred testing window.
Step 7	You will receive instructions from the exam vendor to book a date and time to write the exam two weeks before the exam window opens.

I AM NOT READY TO GET A CONDITIONAL LICENCE RIGHT NOW

Everyone has their own timetable and circumstance. If you do not have an immigration pathway, waiting until things are in place makes good sense.

Things for you to consider:

- When you are ready to activate your licence, reach out to us at registration@nscn.ca and we will quickly review your application to ensure all your documents are still up to date.
- We will let you know when you can login to your portal to pay the invoice to activate your conditional licence.