

Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination Misconduct or Breaches

1. Purpose

The objective of this policy is to outline the SALPN's decision-making process when a candidate's exam is flagged for an actual or potential breach of academic integrity.

2. Policy

Graduates of Saskatchewan Practical Nurse Education programs and Internationally Educated Nurses approved for licensure must write the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE). The CPNRE ensures that an entry-level practical nurse has the competencies to practice the profession safely and in the best interest of the Saskatchewan public. Because the CPNRE is a high-stakes examination, exam integrity is of the utmost importance.

Following each administration of the CPNRE, the exam provider – Yardstick/Meazure Learning – provides the SALPN with a case report if suspicious behaviour or potential exam misconduct is detected. It is the SALPN Registrar's responsibility to review the case report and decide the candidate's exam status.

Exam conduct is considered an agreement between the SALPN, the individual writing the exam, and the exam provider. It is defined as the moral, ethical, sets of behaviours expected to be upheld by an individual while writing the CPNRE. Examples of exam misconduct may include, but are not limited to:

- Bringing in or utilizing prohibited items in the exam setting (computers, mobile phones, etc.)
- Accessing personal items while on an exam break
- Communicating with others while connected with a virtual proctor.

3. Authority

The Licensed Practical Nurses Act, 2000

The SALPN Regulatory Bylaws

Standards of Practice for Licensed Practical Nurses in Canada

Code of Ethics for Licensed Practical Nurses in Canada

4. Procedure

When exam misconduct or breach is first suspected, the SALPN Registrar may:

1. Make further enquiries and conduct an investigation
2. Seek an explanation from the exam candidate
3. Review the Yardstick/Measure Learning case report
4. Review the candidate's exam video (if applicable).

If a case report or video supports or provides a reasonable basis to believe that actual or potential misconduct occurred on the part of the exam candidate, the Registrar shall:

1. Cancel the CPNRE attempt
2. Inform Yardstick/Measure Learning of the decision
3. Inform the candidate of their decision, in writing and with reasons
4. Make a notation of the misconduct on the candidate's SALPN record.

In addition, the Registrar may:

1. Refer the matter to the SALPN Counselling and Investigation Committee for an investigation related to Professional Misconduct
2. Guide proper behaviour for the candidate's next exam writing
3. Count the attempt as a failure
4. Provide information about the next scheduled offering of the CPNRE
5. Provide information about their current SALPN registration and licensure status
6. Provide exam fee reimbursement information
7. Revoke SALPN licensure if the candidate has exceeded all allowable attempts
8. Take any other appropriate action.

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Approved by: SALPN Council

Department responsible for review: Registration and Licensure

Policy: The SALPN is mandated through the Licensed Practical Nurses Act 2000 to regulate the profession of Practical Nursing according to its Bylaws, Standards of Practice, and Policies in a manner that protects the public from risk and reduce harm to those a profession serves.