October 21, 2015

Anne Coghlan, RN, MScN
President
Canadian Council of Registered Nurse Regulators (CCRN)
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Dear Ms. Coghlan,

Recently, several Canadian Nurse Regulatory Bodies have reported that they are hearing from their stakeholders (educators and NCLEX candidates) that the current NCLEX examination has items testing concepts related to the Food and Drug Administration and Obamacare. Because these are legal concepts related to the entire healthcare system within the United States and not specific to entry-level nurse competence when interacting with a client, the inclusion in any NCLEX examination would be extremely unlikely. That being said, the Pearson VUE examination staff completed an exhaustive search on September 28, 2015 of all NCLEX item pools for any term (e.g., USDA, Obamacare, Obama, FDA, Drug Administration, Affordable Care Act, ACA) related to these concepts. The findings indicated that none of these terms existed in any current NCLEX item pool (i.e., operational pool, experimental pool, master pool). To ensure the findings were accurate, the NCLEX examination team participated in a second, independent search of all item banks on Oct. 1, 2015. Again the findings indicated no items including any overt or covert reference to the Food and Drug Administration and/or Obamacare.

I realize that our findings conflict with reports of some NCLEX candidate’s across Canada. While I cannot, with certainty, direct you to the source of these incorrect statements, it is conceivable based on historical evidence within the United States, that candidates are hearing these concepts while participating in a wide variety of test preparation activities. While difficult to control, it is imperative that candidates for the NCLEX be reminded that no test preparation vendor (or its employees) has had any access to the NCLEX examination content; candidates should be cautious and discerning when participating with any test preparatory company that claims to have actual items or confidential knowledge of the NCLEX examination. Additionally, candidates should be informed of the role of the regulatory body and NCSBN in providing primary source information about the examination.
If you have any further questions about this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

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