Date: December 7, 2015

TO: CCRNR
FR: Philip Dickison, Chief Officer, Examinations
RE: NCLEX-RN® Passing Rate

**Purpose of the memo:**
This memo briefly summarizes the performance of candidates educated in Canada on NCLEX-RN exam during the first eleven months of 2015 (January to November), and provides a discussion of how to interpret the exam result as well as what to expect in coming years. It is for the CCRNR’s information only.

**Background:**
Ten Canadian RN regulators selected NCLEX-RN as their new licensure examination for entry-to-practice. NCLEX-RN has been the licensure examination in Canada since January 2015. CCRNR released NCLEX-RN examination pass rates for the first six months of 2015 in September 2015.

**Situation:**
There have been more than 10,000 NCLEX-RN exams delivered to Canadian candidates since January 2015. The Canadian pass rate of NCLEX-RN for Quarter 1, Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 is lower than the U.S. national pass rate. However, for Quarter 4 (only October and November), the Canadian pass rate is higher than the U.S. pass rate. For first-timers, the Canadian pass rate of Quarter 4 increased by 11% from the pass rate of Quarter 3. The Canadian pass rate for repeaters are consistently and significantly higher than the U.S. pass rate of repeaters throughout the year. Specifically, for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2, the Canadian pass rate for repeaters is 22% higher than the U.S. pass rate for repeaters. For Quarter 3 and Quarter 4, the differences are 24% and 20%, respectively.

**Discussion:**
It is noteworthy to mention again that the Canadian pass rate for repeaters are consistently and significantly higher than the U.S. pass rate of repeaters throughout the year. Such substantial differences show that Canadian repeaters are more competent than the U.S. repeaters. It is possible that some repeaters failed their first time because they were rather unfamiliar with the new exam mode and format. It is expected that as Canadian educators and students become familiar with the new exam, the gap between the Canadian pass and the U.S. pass rate will be narrower. Based on the pass rate trend, especially the increment in the Canadian passing rate observed in Quarter 4, it is expected that Canadian candidates will keep improving their exam performances in coming years so as that the Canadian pass rate will be close to the U.S. pass rate or even higher.