

NEC REPORT

October 2020 NEC Report to the Board of Directors

NEC Representative:

Dorina Reiz, RO, Elected Member

Number of meetings since July Board Meeting:

- One virtual meeting on September 13, 2020

National Examination Changes Due to COVID-19

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, NACOR and the provincial regulatory boards have been working together to administer a safe national examinations session for candidates, examiners and models. Several changes have been made to the administration of the examination, and candidates will receive information on the safety protocols in place at their sitting of the examination from their provincial regulatory board.

The National Examination Committee met on September 13, 2020 to discuss content changes to both the eyeglasses and contact lens examinations for the fall 2020 examinations. The changes will be in effect for all examinations administered between September – December 2020. These changes will be reviewed again by the National Examination Committee prior to the start of examination administrations in 2021.

Eyeglasses Examination

The following change was approved:

- Section 3 – Measurement: Candidates will not be required to measure a pupillary distance using the pupilometer. Candidates will still be required to measure a pupillary distance using a penlight and ruler.
- The removal of measuring the PD with a pupilometer changes the total marks for the eyeglasses examination from 236 to 232 marks. The pass mark for the eyeglasses examination will be 141/232 or 61%.

Contact Lens Examination

The following changes were approved:

- Section 1 – Keratometry and Rx Interpretation: Candidates will not be required to measure the k-readings on a live model. Instead candidates will be required to take the measurement of an unknown test ball.

- Section 3 – Verification and Lens Design: Candidates will not be required to measure the base curve(s) of rigid lenses using a radioscope. Candidates will still be required to measure the power and diameter of rigid lenses.
- Section 4 – Insertion and Removal: This entire section of the examination has been removed.
- The contact lens portion of the exam was shortened by 40 points out of the total 215. This was a substantial change and so additional investigation was conducted into the relative difficulty of the 40 points that were removed. Wickett Measurement Systems was hired to do a statistical analysis of historical data from the contact lens examination. The average performance on the 40 removed points was 81% whereas it was 69% on the remaining 175 points. As such, the revised exam is more challenging for candidates and so the pass mark needed to be revised to make it a fair assessment and ensure that candidates sitting this examination are being tested to at least the same level as past examinations. Linear equating, mathematical and classification balancing approaches were used to establish the revised pass mark. The pass mark for the contact lens examination will be 113/175 or 65%.

Submitted by:

Dorina Reiz, RO, Elected Member, NEC Representative