

Washington State Board of Nursing (WABON)

# Nursing Assistant Exam Changes (Starting October 1, 2023)



# Background

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Washington is changing the process for completing the nursing assistant exam



The purpose of change is to increase students' access to skills testing following graduation



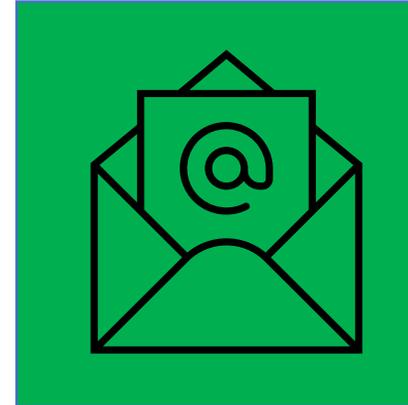
The Washington State Board of Nursing (WABON) has been working closely with Credentia and nursing assistant training programs to develop and launch the new process



# Key Information



We want to give you some key information now



We will give you more information as we have it



# Notes on September



Skills test dates scheduled within the month of September are not affected by the changes



Testing candidates should keep September testing appointments



You can continue to register for skills and written test openings within the month of September as usual



# Changes for October

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- Graduates beginning their testing process will take the SKILLS TEST FIRST
- Graduates will be expected to pass the skills test before registering for the written test
- This change will save steps and time in testing and certification processes



# Changes for October

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**Many approved nursing assistant training programs will schedule and provide skills tests for their current and previous graduates at the program.**

- The list of the programs ready to provide skills testing to their graduates can be found [here](#)
- Many additional programs will begin in November or December to expand availability further
- By 2024, we expect most programs will provide skills testing routinely immediately after graduation



**Here comes a  
REALLY BIG  
change for  
October ...**





# Registration for the Skills Test



- Graduates will no longer register for skills tests on Credentia365
- However, graduates will continue to use Credentia365 to:
  - Get their Candidate Identification (ID) number
  - Register for the written (or oral) test



# So How Will It Work?

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# NEW 4-Step Process

**1**

GET your  
Credential  
Candidate ID#

**2**

REGISTER for  
a skills test

**3**

Once you pass  
the skills test,  
REGISTER for  
the written  
(or oral) test

**4**

Once you pass  
both parts of  
the test, APPLY  
for your  
credential

These 4 Steps are for  
Graduates of Approved  
Washington Nursing  
Assistant Training  
Programs



# Washington Graduates' Eligibility Codes

- These four steps apply to these Credentia Eligibility Codes:
  - **E1:** New Nursing Assistant (graduate of a traditional training program)
  - **E6:** Alternative Nursing Assistant (HCA or MA Bridge program graduate)





# Other Eligible Candidates



Other eligible candidates will use the same 4 steps, but in a different order and will be addressed later in this presentation:

- **E2:** Nursing Program Student or Graduate (LPN or RN program)
- **E3:** Military Nursing Student
- **E4:** OUT-of-STATE Nursing Assistant Graduate or Nursing Program Student or Graduate
- **E5:** Lapsed Nursing Assistant
- **E7:** Trained Prior to Feb. 1, 2015
- **E8:** OBRA Re-Activation
- **E9:** Training Program Now Closed



# NEW 4-Step Process

For Graduates of an  
Approved  
Washington State  
Nursing Assistant  
Training Program

**1**

GET your  
Credentia  
Candidate ID#

**2**

REGISTER for  
a skills test

**3**

Once you pass  
the skills test,  
REGISTER for  
the written  
(or oral) test

**4**

Once you pass  
both parts of  
the test, APPLY  
for your  
credential\*

Let's look  
at each step  
more closely ...



# STEP 1

For Graduates of an Approved Washington State Nursing Assistant Training Program

**1**

GET your  
Credentia  
Candidate ID#



# STEP 1

For Graduates of an Approved Washington State Nursing Assistant Training Program

**1**

GET your  
Credentia  
Candidate ID#

Hmmm . . . I wonder  
how we get our  
Credentia Candidate  
ID#?



# STEP 1

For Graduates of an Approved Washington State Nursing Assistant Training Program

**1**

GET your  
Credentia  
Candidate ID#



Go to [Credentia's website](#)



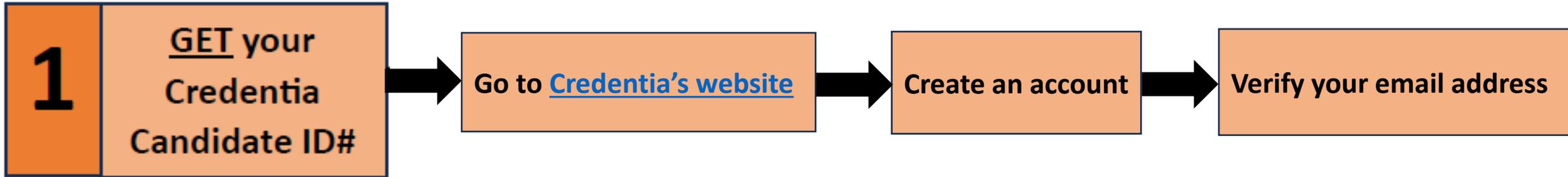
# STEP 1

For Graduates of an Approved Washington State Nursing Assistant Training Program



# STEP 1

For Graduates of an Approved Washington State Nursing Assistant Training Program



## Why is STEP 1 Important?

- **STEP 1** is important because you need a Candidate ID# to:
  - Register for the skills test
  - Register for the written (or oral) test
  - Assure your passing results are quickly processed for credentialing and employment purposes



# STEP 2

For Graduates of an Approved Washington State Nursing Assistant Training Program

**2**

**REGISTER for  
a skills test**



# STEP 2

For Graduates of an Approved Washington State Nursing Assistant Training Program

2

REGISTER for  
a skills test

This is where I heard  
things are REALLY  
changing ...



# STEP 2

For Graduates of an Approved Washington State Nursing Assistant Training Program

**2**

**REGISTER for  
a skills test**

At your training program  
if it offers skills testing

Check [here](#) to see if you  
can test at your program



# STEP 2

For Graduates of an Approved Washington State Nursing Assistant Training Program

2

REGISTER for  
a skills test

At your training program  
if it offers skills testing

Check [here](#) to see if you  
can test at your program

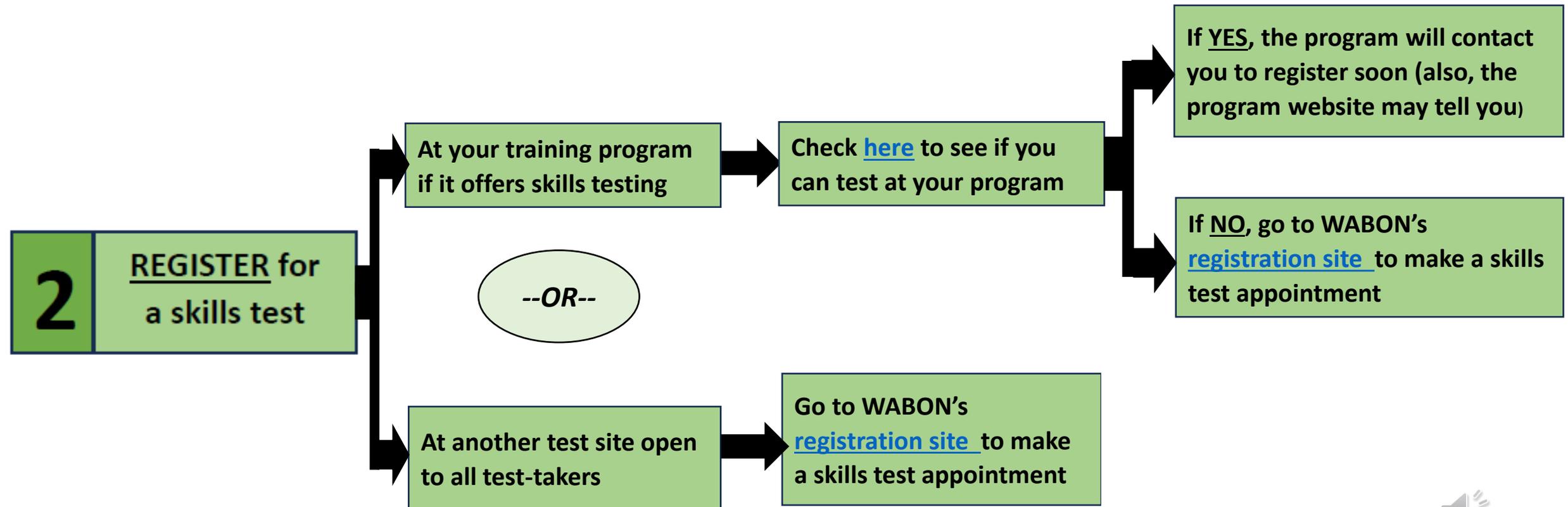
If YES, the program will contact  
you to register soon (also, the  
program website may tell you)

If NO, go to WABON's  
[registration site](#) to make a skills  
test appointment



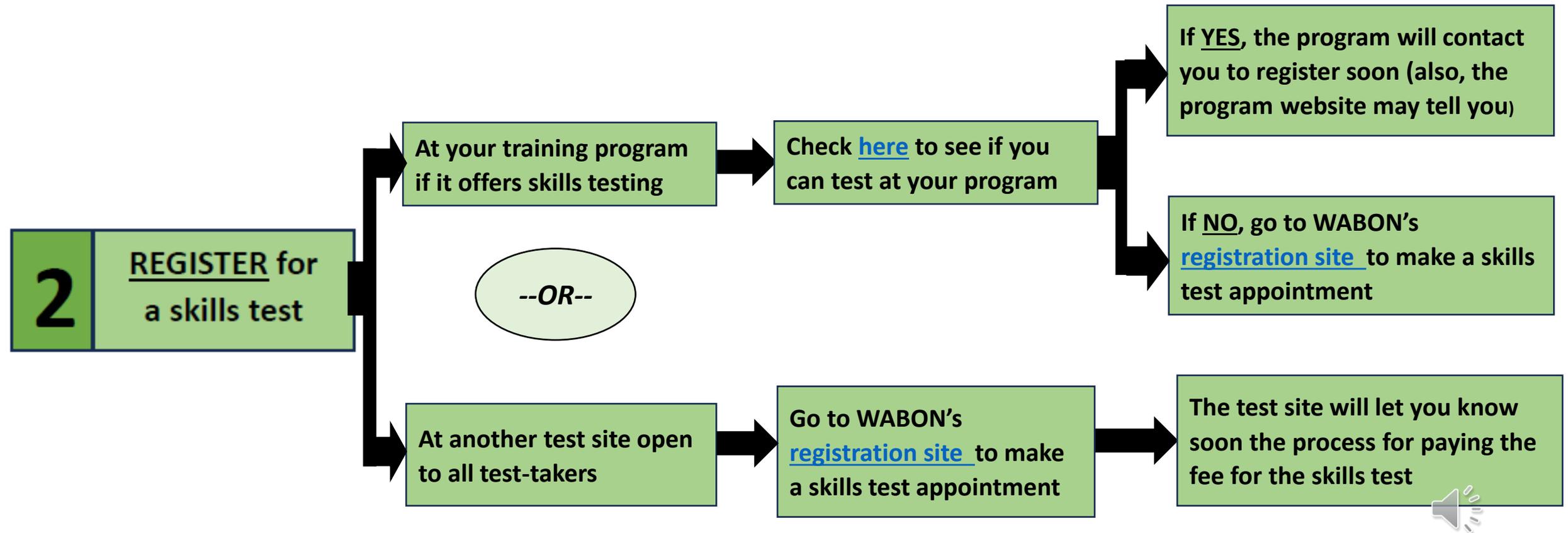
# STEP 2

For Graduates of an Approved Washington State Nursing Assistant Training Program



# STEP 2

For Graduates of an Approved Washington State Nursing Assistant Training Program

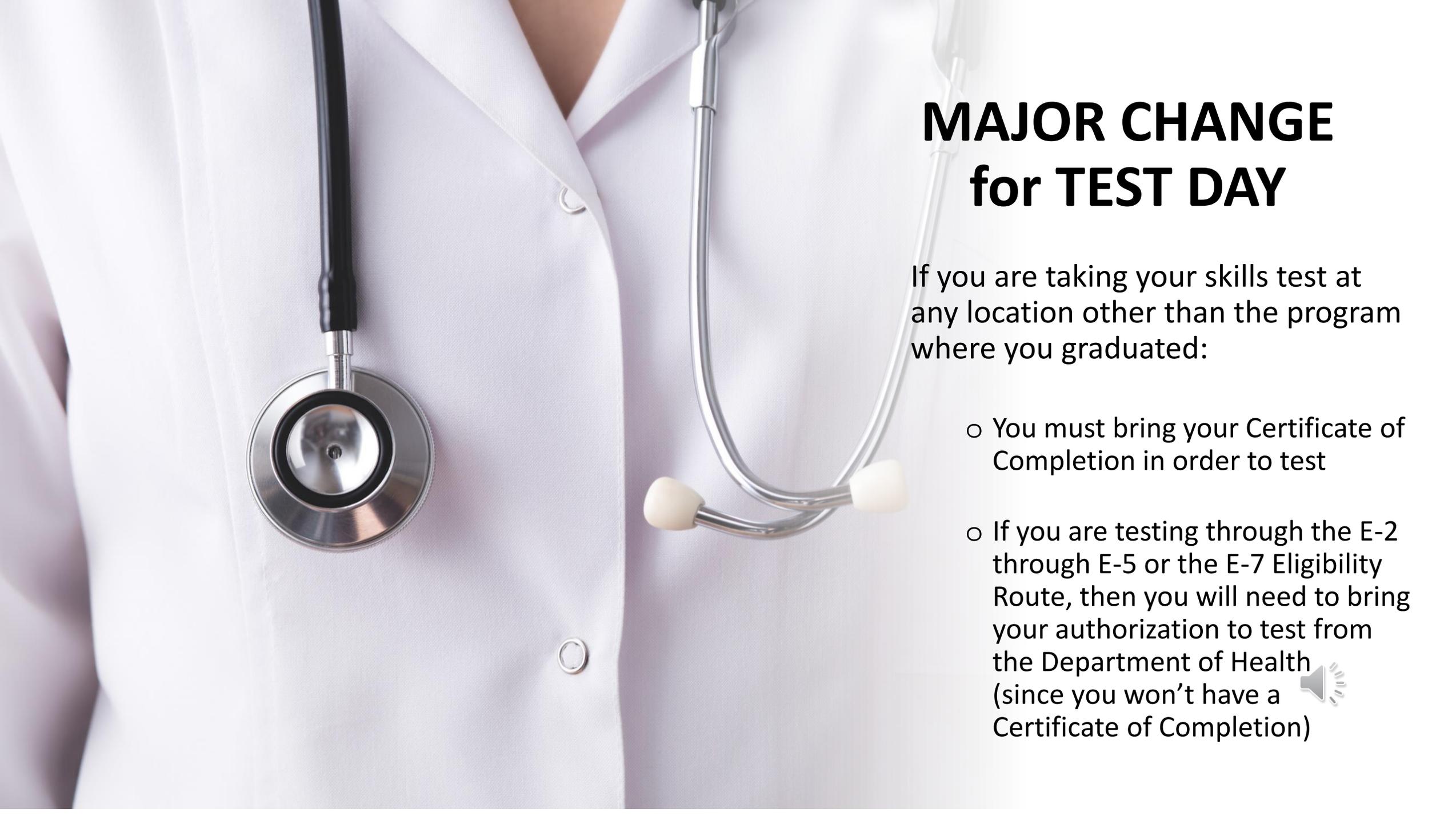


# The Exam Cost is the Same, BUT ...

**There is a shift in amounts paid for each part of the exam:**

- Starting Oct. 1, the skills test fee will go down by \$10 while the written (or oral) test fee will go up by \$10
- This means the skills test fee will be \$100, and the written (or oral) testing fee will be \$55
- The purpose of this change is to assure quick linkage of your passing scores on both parts of the exam for efficient credentialing and transition to employment

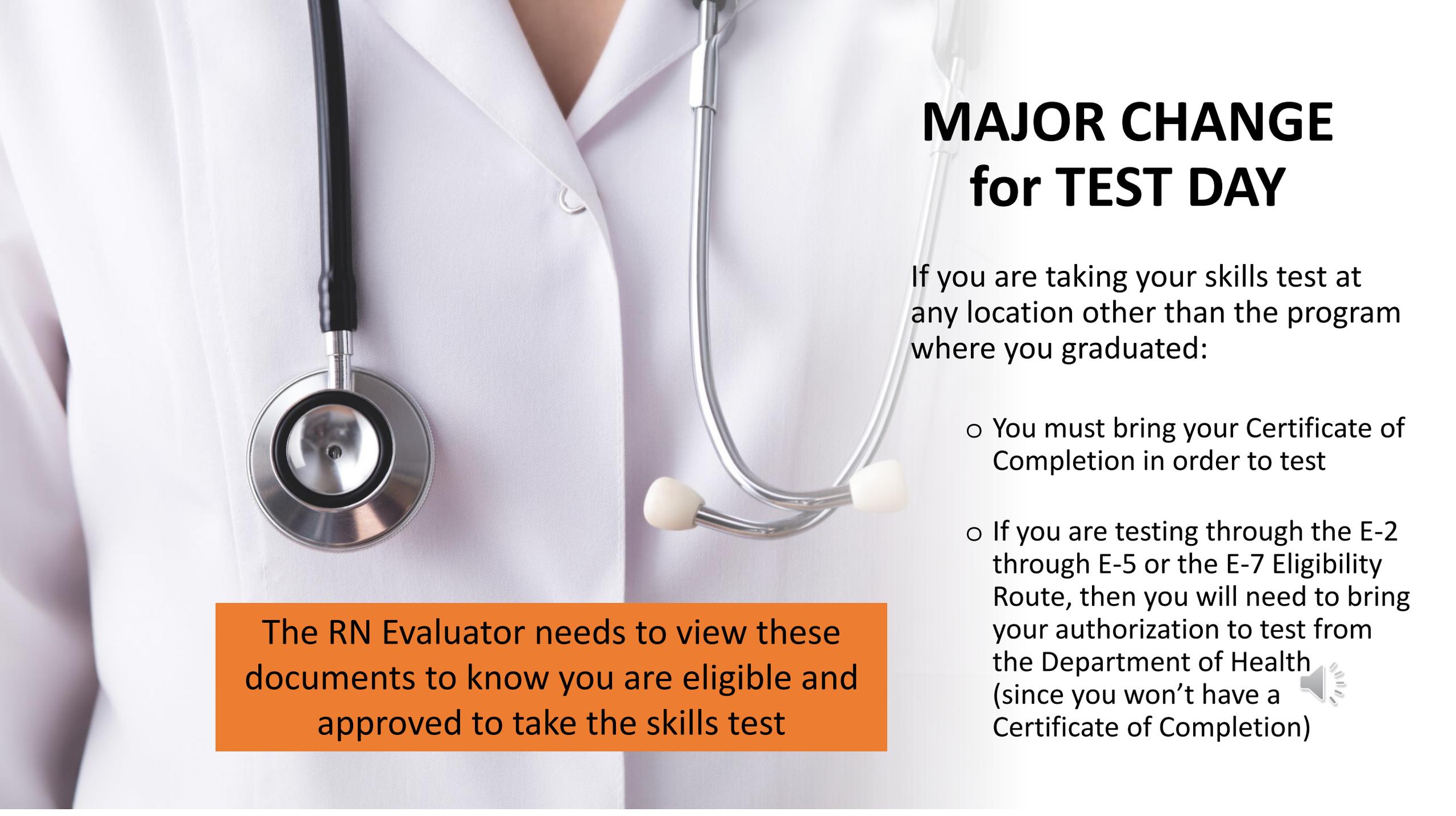




# MAJOR CHANGE for TEST DAY

If you are taking your skills test at any location other than the program where you graduated:

- You must bring your Certificate of Completion in order to test
- If you are testing through the E-2 through E-5 or the E-7 Eligibility Route, then you will need to bring your authorization to test from the Department of Health (since you won't have a  Certificate of Completion)



# MAJOR CHANGE for TEST DAY

If you are taking your skills test at any location other than the program where you graduated:

- You must bring your Certificate of Completion in order to test
- If you are testing through the E-2 through E-5 or the E-7 Eligibility Route, then you will need to bring your authorization to test from the Department of Health (since you won't have a  Certificate of Completion)

The RN Evaluator needs to view these documents to know you are eligible and approved to take the skills test

# Please Keep in Mind ...

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- This process is NEW for everyone -- We are all working together:
  - Training Programs
  - Credentia
  - WABON
  - Graduates
- This process is EVOLVING so we will give you updates as we have them



# STEP 3

For Graduates of an Approved Washington State Nursing Assistant Training Program

**3**

Once you pass the skills test, REGISTER for the written (or oral) test



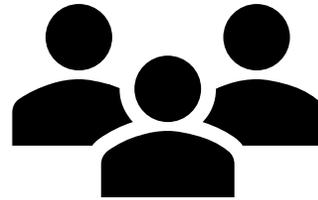
# STEP 3

For Graduates of an Approved Washington State Nursing Assistant Training Program

3

Once you pass the skills test, REGISTER for the written (or oral) test

Let's hope the written test stays the same!



# STEP 3

For Graduates of an Approved Washington State Nursing Assistant Training Program

**3**

Once you pass the skills test, REGISTER for the written (or oral) test

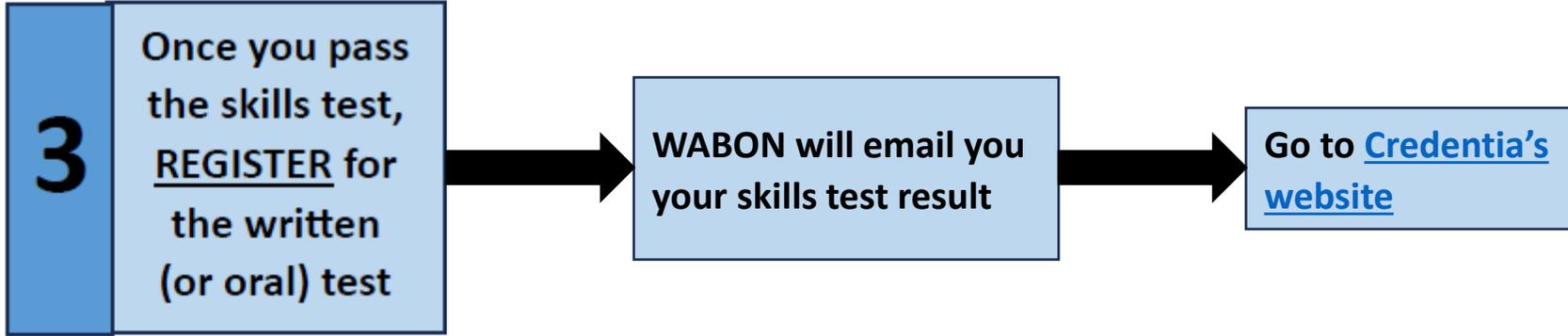


WABON will email you your skills test result



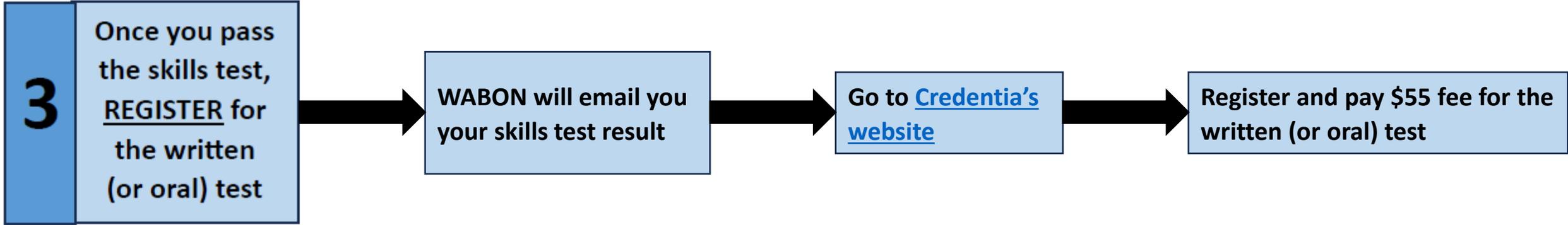
# STEP 3

For Graduates of an Approved Washington State Nursing Assistant Training Program



# STEP 3

For Graduates of an Approved Washington State Nursing Assistant Training Program



# STEP 4

For Graduates of an Approved Washington State Nursing Assistant Training Program

**4**

Once you pass both parts of the test, APPLY for your credential\*



# STEP 4

For Graduates of an Approved Washington State Nursing Assistant Training Program

4

Once you pass both parts of the test, APPLY for your credential\*

What?

I thought once I passed the exam I would automatically have my NAC credential?



# STEP 4

For Graduates of an Approved Washington State Nursing Assistant Training Program

**4**

Once you pass both parts of the test, APPLY for your credential\*

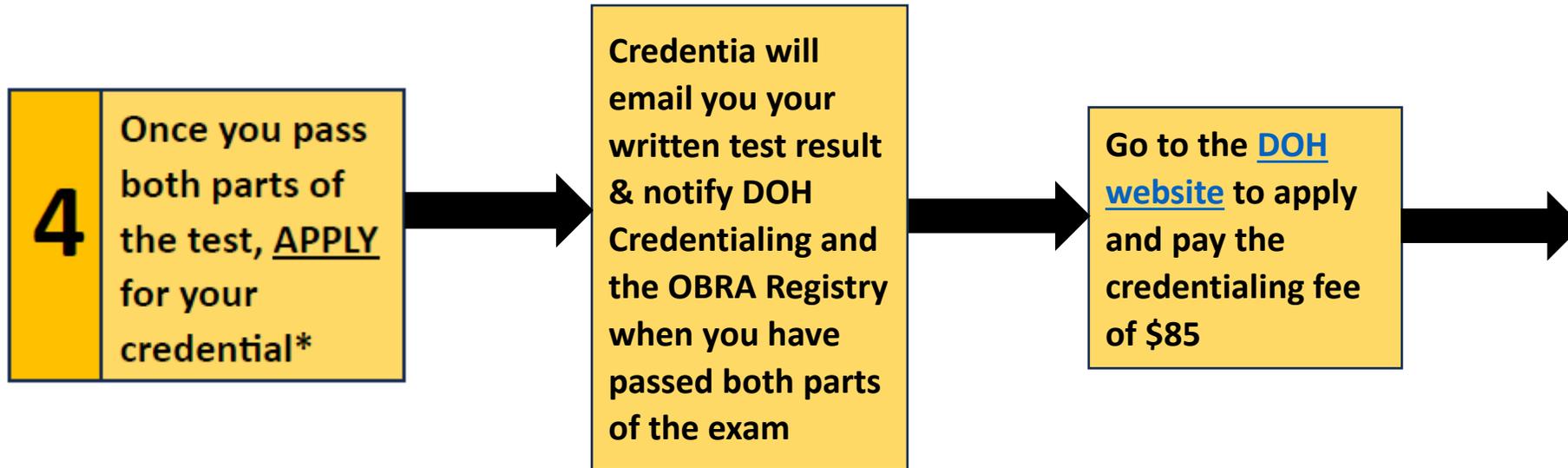


Credentia will email you your written test result & notify DOH Credentialing and the OBRA Registry when you have passed both parts of the exam



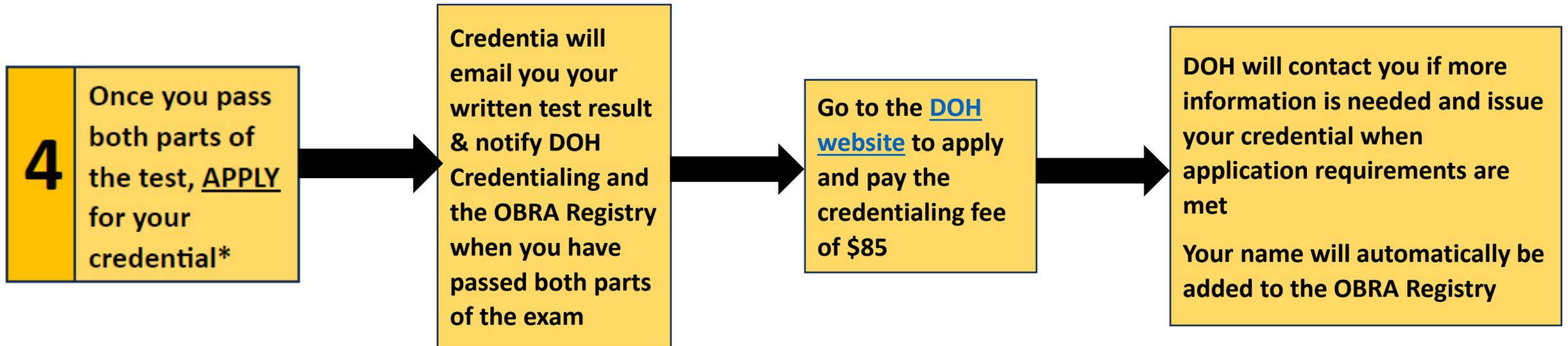
# STEP 4

For Graduates of an Approved Washington State Nursing Assistant Training Program



# STEP 4

For Graduates of an Approved Washington State Nursing Assistant Training Program



**\*NOTE:** You can apply for your credential earlier in this process if you choose—for example, after Step 1 or after Step 2. The main point to know is that you must APPLY to DOH AS AN EXTRA STEP in addition to passing the exam



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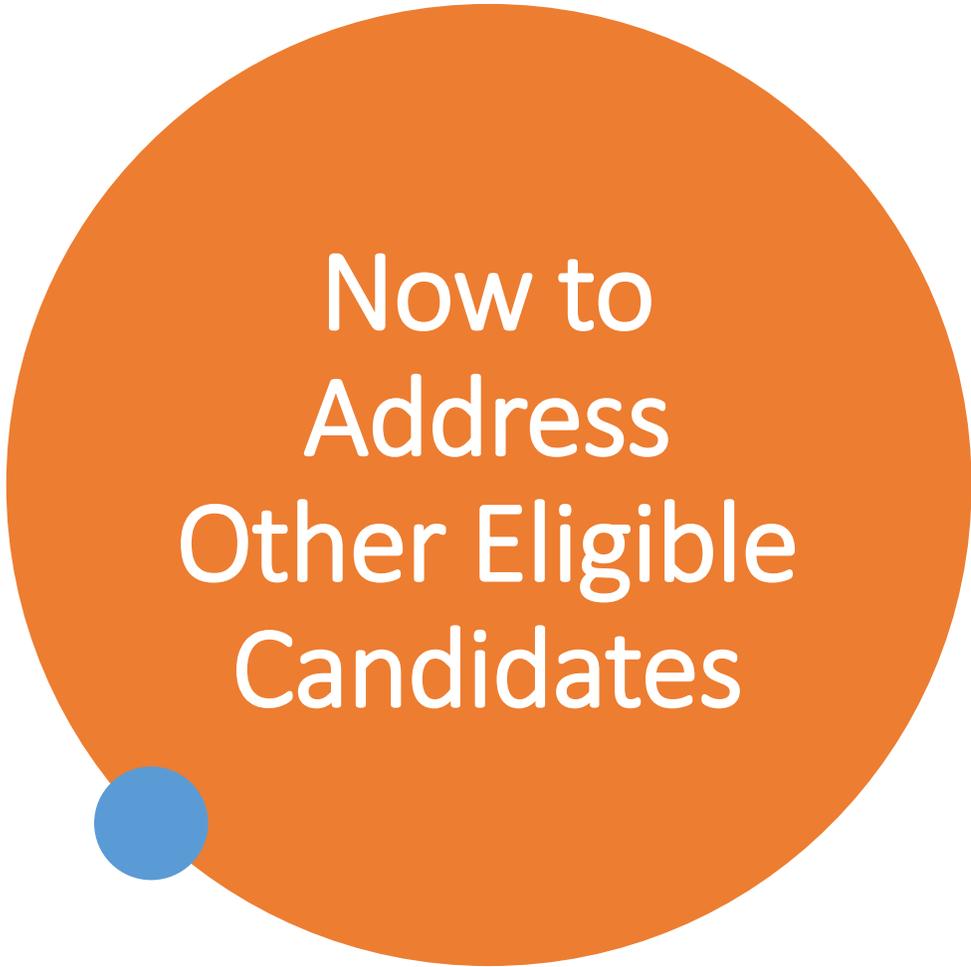
Once you pass  
both parts of  
the test, APPLY  
for your  
credential\*

## Review:

### NEW 4-Step Process

#### For Graduates of an Approved Washington State Nursing Assistant Training Program

- For test dates Oct. 1 and after
- A 1-page chart of these steps is available [here](#)



## Now to Address Other Eligible Candidates



Other eligible candidates will use the same 4 steps, but in a different order. Again, these other eligible candidate include:

- **E2:** Nursing Program Student or Graduate (LPN or RN program)
- **E3:** Military Nursing Student
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# Other Eligible Candidates

- **START with STEP 4**
  - This step is needed to gain your authorization to test
  - Your authorization to test is required prior to testing
- **Then follow Steps 1-3 in order**



# To Review: Other Eligible Candidates

## FIRST ...

<b>4</b>	<u>Apply</u> for your NAC Credential
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## THEN

<b>1</b>	<u>GET</u> your Credentia Candidate ID#
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<b>2</b>	<u>REGISTER</u> for a skills test
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<b>3</b>	Once you pass the skills test, <u>REGISTER</u> for the written (or oral) test
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# More Information to Come ...

- Details related to skills test registration policies and procedures
- Candidate Handbook updates to reflect the new processes
- You can check the [WABON website](#) and the [Credentia website](#) for more information as it becomes available





**Thank you**

We appreciate your patience during these process changes

