



NCSBN

National Council of State Boards of Nursing

NCLEX[®] FAQs

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Objectives

At the end of the webinar, the participant will be able to:

- Discuss the answers to two NCLEX[®] frequently asked questions (FAQs)
- Locate resources to address NCLEX FAQs

Frequently Asked Question #1

- Does the NCLEX use acute care or hospital as the only client settings?



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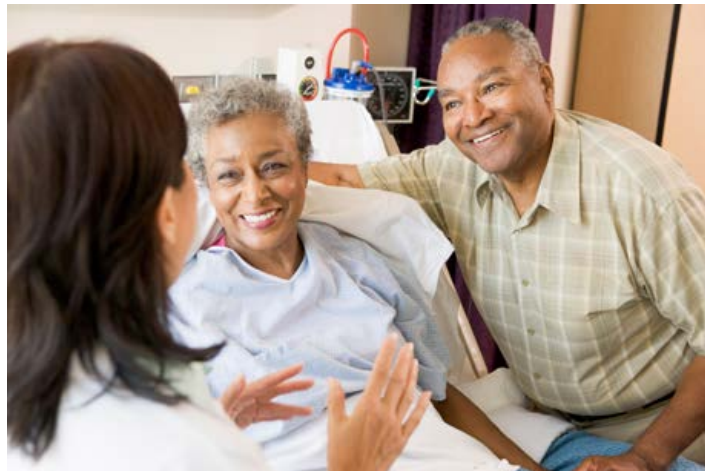
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Answer

- NCLEX items are developed based on a variety of practice settings such as acute/critical care, long-term care/rehabilitation care, outpatient care and community-based/home care.

Frequently Asked Question #2

- How does the NCLEX use the terms client, prescription and primary health care provider?



Answer

Client:

- Refers to the individual, family, or group, which includes significant others and populations. For the NCLEX, clients are the equivalent to residents or patients

Answer Continued...

Prescription:

- Represents what is commonly known as health care orders, interventions, remedies or treatments ordered or directed by an authorized primary health care provider

Answer Continued...

Primary Health Care Provider:

- Represents the member of the healthcare team (usually a medical physician [or other specialty, e.g. surgeon, nephrologist, etc.], nurse practitioner, etc.), licensed and authorized to formulate prescriptions on behalf of the client

Frequently Asked Question #3

- Does the NCLEX use generic medication names?



Answer

- The NCLEX reflects, on most occasions, the use of generic medication names only. Some items may refer to general classifications of medications.

Frequently Asked Question #4

- Which units of measurement are used on the NCLEX?



Answer

- NCLEX items currently include a combination of metric, international systems of units (SI) and imperial measurement options used in the nursing profession.

Frequently Asked Question #5

- What does the term “entry-level nurse” mean?



Answer

- An NCLEX entry-level nurse is the examinee or person for whom the exam is intended.
- Currently, the entry-level nurse is defined as having six months or less nursing experience.

Answer Continued...

- Revised definition:
 - Entry-level nurse is defined as having no more than 12 months nursing experience.
 - Effective April 1, 2017 NCLEX-PN®
 - Effective April 1, 2019 NCLEX-RN®

Frequently Asked Question #6

- How does the NCLEX address terminology differences between jurisdictions using the NCLEX?



Answer

- To achieve accurate, stable measurement, terminology used in exam items can have only one meaning
- NCLEX items undergo a rigorous review process to ensure items represent the client population and remain free from unintentional bias

Frequently Asked Question #7

- If the NCLEX is administered outside of the United States, is a different and separate exam developed?



Answer

- There is only one NCLEX developed. Continuous research is conducted to ensure entry-level practice remains comparable and the NCLEX Test Plan is applicable.

Frequently Asked Question #8

- How does the NCLEX capture specialty nursing?



Answer

- The exam covers all NCLEX Client Categories of the test plan, including items directed to mental health, medical/surgical, OB/GYN, and pediatrics, etc. The exam does not exclusively focus on specific nurse specialties.

Frequently Asked Question #9

- How does the NCLEX continue to include current nursing practice?



Answer

- NCSBN uses several mechanisms to maintain NCLEX validity and reliability by ensuring the exam remains current, including the following:
 - NCLEX Practice Analysis
 - NCLEX Continuous Practice Analysis
 - Item Review
 - Exam Item Masking

Answer Continued...

NCLEX Practice Analysis

- Performed every three years to gather information on the current practice of entry-level nursing
- Data gathered in the practice analysis informs the development of the NCLEX Test Plan

Answer Continued...

The NCLEX Continuous Practice Analysis

- Conducted in the interim cycle of the NCLEX Practice Analysis
- During this time, NCSBN continues to gather information on the current practice of entry-level nursing

Answer Continued...

Item Review

The NCLEX item development processes below ensure item currency:

- Item Review Panel
- Master Pool Review
- Regulatory Body Review

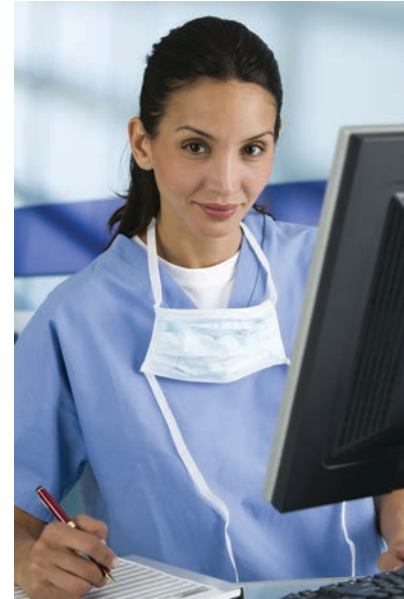
Answer Continued...

Exam Item Masking

- NCSBN has the ability to perform item masking or real-time interruption of the delivery of any exam item that is no longer reflective of current nursing practice.

Frequently Asked Question #10

- What nursing content can I expect to appear on the NCLEX?



Answer

- Examples of content that may appear on the NCLEX can be found in the NCLEX Test Plan. The test plan is developed as a result of data collected in the practice analysis.

Conclusion

- Periodic review of NCLEX FAQs
- More answers to your NCLEX questions may be found here:
 - www.ncsbn.org/nclex-faqs.htm

Thank you!