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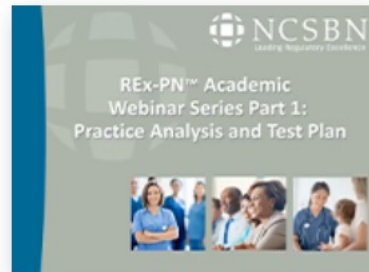
REx-PN® Item Writing Tutorial

Objectives

1. Locate REx-PN item writing resources and test development resources

2. Utilize the steps of the REx-PN item writing process

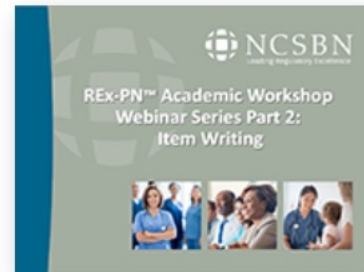3. Apply principles of item writing using REx-PN style to develop multiple choice items

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Item Writing Resources

- Visit the NCSBN website to view the item writing webinar and REx-PN Test Plan.

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REx-PN™ Academic Webinar Series Part 1: Practice Analysis and Test Plan

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REx-PN™ Academic Workshop Webinar Series Part 2: Item Writing

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REx-PN™ Academic Workshop Webinar Series Part 3: Computerized Adaptive Testing (CAT)

REx-PN Test Plan Webinar

To ensure public protection, each province requires graduates for practical nursing to meet set requirements...

2020 | RECORDED WEBINAR

REx-PN Item Development Webinar

The webinar will provide an overview of the Item development process. It explains the processes of item writing and...

2020 | RECORDED WEBINAR

REx-PN CAT Style Exam Webinar

The REx-PN CAT Style Exam Webinar: Explains how CAT (computerized adaptive testing) works in REx-PN Discusses...

2020 | RECORDED WEBINAR

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Regulatory Exam – Practical Nurse (REx-PN)

REx-PN
Regulatory Exam - Practical Nurse

The REx-PN is a new Canadian Practical Nurse exam developed for the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM) and the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO).

BCCNM and CNO have partnered with NCSBN to develop the REx-PN. NCSBN is dedicated to developing psychometrically sound and legally defensible nurse licensure and certification examinations consistent with current practice.

The REx-PN exam will launch in January 2022.

2022 REx-PN Test Plan

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 4, 2022

The REx-PN test plan includes an in-depth overview of the content categories, details about the administration of the exam and REx-PN style item writing exercises.

📄 **Download Publication**   📄 **Français**

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REx-PN FAQs

REx-PN Resources

RELATED RESOURCES

↗ **British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM)**

↗ **College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO)**

▶ (video)

REx-PN Webinars >

Watch recorded webinars to learn more about the REx-PN.

RELATED VIDEOS

Computerized Adaptive Testing CAT

REx-PN Using CAT

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Steps in Item Writing

1. Review the test plan and select an activity statement.

2. Select a nursing concept.

3. Locate references.

4. Write the stem.

5. Write the key.

6. Write the distractors.

7. Review the item.

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Steps in Item Writing

1. Select a Test Plan Category.

   - Activity statement from Test Plan

   Example:

   Test Plan Category 2 = Safety and Infection Control

   Subcategory = *Standard precautions/Transmission-based precautions/Surgical Asepsis – Educate client and staff regarding infection control measures*

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The nurse is planning a staff education program about Clostridium difficile infection. Which of the following information should the nurse include?

1. "Clients who have Clostridium difficile infections should be placed in droplet precautions."

2. "After recovery from Clostridium difficile infections, clients are immune from a recurrence of the infection."

3. "Items used in caring for clients who have Clostridium difficile should be cleaned with a disinfectant bleach solution." (**key**)

4. "After caring for clients who have Clostridium difficile infections, the nurse should cleanse the nurse's hands with an alcohol-based hand rub."

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Steps in Item Writing

2. Select a nursing concept.

- Nursing Process

- Body System

- Disease Process

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Steps in Item Writing

2. Select a nursing concept.

- Body System - Endocrine

   The nurse is assessing a client with diabetes insipidus. Which of the following findings would require follow-up?

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Steps in Item Writing

2. Select a nursing concept.

- Body System - Endocrine

The nurse is teaching a client with Grave's disease about corticosteroid therapy. Which of the following information should the nurse include?

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Steps in Item Writing

2. Select a nursing concept.

- Body System - Endocrine

The nurse is planning care for a client with Addison's disease. Which intervention should the nurse include?

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Steps in Item Writing

2. Select a nursing concept.

- Body System - Endocrine

  The nurse is caring for a client with diabetes mellitus (type 2) who has a random blood glucose level of 234 mmol/L. Which of the following interventions should the nurse implement?

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Steps in Item Writing

2. Select a nursing concept.

- Body System - Endocrine

  The nurse is evaluating the effectiveness of the treatment plan for a client with hypothyroidism. Which finding would indicate treatment effectiveness?

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Steps in Item Writing

2. Select a nursing concept.
- Disease Process
  - Heart Failure
  - Cirrhosis
  - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
  - Cancer
  - Diabetes Mellitus

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Steps in Item Writing

3. Locate references in textbooks, journals, and/or websites.

- Provide a reference for the key and distractors

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Steps in Item Writing

4. Write the stem.

- Clear intent or objective

- Central idea identified

- Relevant information provided

- Be concise

- Use terminology that only has one meaning

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Developing an Item Stem

- A complete item stem should include:
    1. Scenario
    2. Client condition and descriptors
    3. Information requested (question)
    4. Additional directions (if needed)

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Stem Examples

The nurse is caring for a client who has (client condition). Which of the following actions should the nurse take?

The nurse is caring for a client who has an order for (medication). How many mL should the nurse administer to the client with each dose? **Record your answer using a whole number.**

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Stem Examples

The nurse is teaching the client who has had (client procedure). Which of the following statements by the client indicates a correct understanding of the teaching?

The nurse is teaching a client about (client condition). Which of the following information should the nurse include?

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Steps in Item Writing

4. Write the stem.

Review the sample stems provided.

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Steps in Item Writing

5. Write the key.

- The correct answer.

- Supported by a reference.

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Steps in Item Writing

6. Write the distractors.

- Common errors

- Common misconceptions

- What do your students often mistake or confuse?

- Are there concepts that require frequent clarification?

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Important tips to keep in mind:

Avoid the use of:

- Opposites

- "All of the above" or "None of the above"

- Slang or idioms that may be confusing

- Classifying clients by age or diagnosis

- All brand names

- Gender - unless necessary to answer the item

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Steps in Item Writing

7. Review the item.

- Edit the item

- Eliminate excessive wording

- Review for proper grammar and length

- Add the references and rationale statement

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Additional tips to enhance an item:

- Distractors reflect common misconceptions (Diabetes Mellitus vs. Diabetes Insipidus)

- Reflect on your own teaching experience with students in the clinical setting and the classroom

- Describe the symptoms rather than stating the diagnosis

- Attempt to challenge all students, both those with high ability and low ability

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REx-PN Resources

REx-PN Web Resources

REx-PN Test Plan

REx-PN Practice Analysis

REx-PN Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT) Recording

REx-PN FAQs

https://www.ncsbn.org/rex-pn.htm

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Regulatory Exam - Practical Nurse

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Objectives

1. Utilize the steps of the REx-PN item writing process

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In Summary

The steps of the item writing process can be utilized to develop REx-PN style items. We have many resources to assist you with developing REx-PN style items. Please feel free to utilize these resources to assist you with item writing.

Thank you!

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THANK YOU!

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