

NEXT GENERATION NCLEX FAQS

GET THE VITAL INFO YOU NEED TO KNOW.
SELECT A QUESTION BELOW FOR THE LATEST ANSWERS.

WHAT IS NEXT GENERATION NCLEX?

The National Council of the State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) is creating a new version of NCLEX that will include new item types to better measure a candidate's clinical judgment ability.

WHY DOES NCSBN THINK WE NEED A NEW VERSION OF NCLEX?

Research has proven that entry-level nurses require clinical judgment to perform many tasks. In task-analysis studies, in fact, clinical judgment was directly linked to more than 46% of tasks performed by entry-level nurses, both RNs and PNs. With enhanced clinical judgment skills, nurses can prevent a substantial number of adverse events that clients endure.

HOW DOES NCSBN DEFINE CLINICAL JUDGMENT?

It's the observed outcome of critical thinking and decision-making — an iterative process that uses nursing knowledge to observe and assess presenting situations, identify a prioritized client concern, and generate the best possible, evidence-based solutions to deliver safe client care.

WHEN WILL THE NEXT GENERATION NCLEX LAUNCH?

2023.

WHAT IS THE SPECIAL RESEARCH SECTION OF THE NCLEX?

It's a set of extra questions at the end of the NCLEX-RN and -PN. Candidates taking the exams are invited to participate in the Special Research Section. Their answers provide data to NCSBN for use in testing and analyzing new item types that evaluate the candidate's clinical judgment skills.

WHAT ITEM TYPES WOULD A NEXT GENERATION NCLEX INCLUDE?

NCSBN has not identified a final list of item types yet. However, the organization has noted 5 specific items as viable measures of clinical judgment. It plans to use them with case study questions. They include multiple selection, highlight, cloze, drag and drop, and matrix. A new, unique bowtie also will serve as a standalone item type.

WILL SCORING CHANGE FOR NEW ITEM TYPES?

Definitely. New item types being explored by NCSBN are more complex and often have more than 1 correct answer. Therefore, new item types will require new scoring methods/technology to accurately measure clinical judgment skills. The possibilities of full credit, partial credit, and point deduction for selecting incorrect responses will determine test-takers' results.

HOW CAN YOU START PREPARING NOW?

You can get a jump on helping students develop clinical judgment skills in three primary ways:

- 1) Use active-learning strategies.** Clinical judgment is best learned experientially, and the use of a variety of active-learning strategies will promote the necessary deep-thinking skills required. Incorporate case studies, video scenarios, and simulation to help students better grasp the concepts being addressed, particularly when they have not had similar experiences in clinical.
- 2) Thoroughly assess all assignments.** Make sure any assignment you give students is relevant and challenging yet realistic for the level of your learners. Your goal should be to increase their curiosity and motivation, so they thoughtfully complete the work.
- 3) Question using the Socratic method.** This technique is recognized for promoting deep thinking. Require students to examine collected data, compare and contrast findings, provide rationales for their responses, and explain interrelationships.