Introduction to NCLEX Success!

• 4 keys to success:
  • Program rigor (includes testing policy)
  • Educated faculty
  • Remediated and motivated students
  • Current, desaturated curriculum that prepares a generalist new graduate who “thinks like a nurse”

NCLEX-RN® and NCLEX-PN® Update: What’s New?

• Test plans (www.ncsbn.org):
  • NCLEX-RN® 2016 Detailed Test Plan Educator
    • Addition of Culture and Spirituality to list of Integrated Processes (NP, Caring, Teaching and learning, Communication and Documentation)
    • Addition of organ donation content, CAM content; DELETED intraoperative care
NCLEX-RN® and NCLEX-PN® Update: What’s New?

- NCLEX-PN® 2017 (NEW PLAN BEGAN APRIL, 2017)
  - 2017 is the first test plan based on practice analysis of new graduates at 12 months in practice, rather than 6 months.
  - NCLEX-RN® 2019 test plan will also be based on 12 months in practice.

NCLEX-RN® and NCLEX-PN® Update: What’s New?

- Terminology Update:
  - Client/Client reports
  - Primary health care provider
  - Prescribe/prescription

  Style update: KEY words bolded!

NCLEX-RN® and NCLEX-PN® Update: What’s New?

**Test Items (in addition to single response multiple choice):**
- Increase in alternate-formatted items (especially multiple-response):
  - Multiple-response format (Select all that apply)
**For SATA, remember FACT!**

- **F** = Risk Factors
- **A** = Assessment Findings
- **C** = Potential Complications
- **T** = Nursing Treatments

---

**Multiple response Test Item**

A client is on seizure and aspiration precautions. What emergency equipment will the nurse have at the bedside? **Select all that apply.**

A. Padded tongue blade  
B. Suction apparatus  
C. Oxygen set-up  
D. Vest restraint  
E. Artificial airway

---

**NCLEX-RN® and NCLEX-PN® Update: What’s New?**

- **Fill-in-the-blank Items: Calculations!**  
  - Rounding done at the end—TEACH dimensional analysis (DA) as the best practice, gold standard method  
  - If whole number, will indicate; if decimals, will specify.  
  - Only a number is needed, the unit of measurement is provided.
Fill-in-the-blank Test Item

The physician prescribes a loading dose of 18mg/kg IV phenytoin to be given at 50 mg/min. The client weighs 198 pounds. The nurse sets the IV pump for the drug to be given over _____ minutes (round to the nearest whole number).

NCLEX-RN® and NCLEX-PN® Update: What’s New?

• Test Items (cont’d):
  • Drag and drop /Ordered response
  • Chart/Exhibit format
  • Hot spot items
  • Audio item format
  • Graphic options format

NCLEX-RN® and NCLEX-PN® Update: What’s New?

Test Items:
  • RN = 75-265 items (15 pretest items)
  • PN = 85-205 items (25 pretest items)
  • No increase in item difficulty level
  • % of Client Needs Categories unchanged
NCLEX-RN® and NCLEX-PN® Update: What’s New?

• Generic drug names used most often
• No demographic information, including medical diagnosis unless absolutely needed to answer item
• Metric and International units for lab values (Canada and U.S. take same NCLEX®)

NCLEX-RN® and NCLEX-PN® Update: What’s New?

• Continued use of nurse and client or nurse and staff interacting to make decisions or use clinical judgment (CJ).
• Items at applying and higher use critical words that are bolded.

Questions?
Overall Test Writing and Administration Tips

• Administer 4 unit exams and 1 final comprehensive exam per semester course.
• Use 40-50 items for unit exams; 80-100 for final exam.
• Count exams as a large portion of theory grade and require passing average.

Overall Test Writing and Administration Tips

• Allow 1.5 minutes per item on a unit or final exam; 2-3 minutes for a medication competency (dosage calculation) test.
• If using dosage calculation tests, do not use as high stakes but rather as part of course requirements; remediate and assist students to help with anxiety and calculations.

Insight into the Future of the NCLEX®

• Continual work on increasing authenticity of exam
• Move towards more simulated questions using web and video interactive technology
• Implications for faculty???