

# What You Need to Know About the Next Generation NCLEX®

*The National Council of the State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) is taking an analytical look at the NCLEX. The goal? To determine what changes are needed to assess student nurses' clinical judgment. The NCSBN is referring to this project as the Next Generation NCLEX.*

## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO TO PREPARE?

Worried about this potential change? Don't be. In an interview with ATI, Philip Dickison, PhD, RN, NCSBN Chief Officer of Examinations, said, "I've heard stories that we're going to implement this in 2019. I can tell you, no, that's not true."<sup>1</sup> What is true? We've got the details from Dr. Dickison and NCSBN.

Specifically, NCSBN's expert team of psychometricians and researchers are following eight evidence-based steps:

### 1) DEVELOP A CLINICAL JUDGMENT MODEL

NCSBN developed a model consisting of five interacting layers that illustrate the complex process of clinical judgment, including the context in which decisions are made.

### 2) CREATE ITEM PROTOTYPES

Measuring clinical judgment requires more unique item types than simple multiple response questions with different scoring methodologies, including penalties for answers indicating a lack of clinical judgment.

### 3) TEST ITEM USABILITY

Students, nurses, and educators have reviewed item prototypes to ensure they represent real-life clinical judgment scenarios.

### 4) COLLECT ITEM DATA

NCSBN added a "Special Research Section" with new item types for select students to voluntarily answer after completion of the current NCLEX. Their responses don't impact scores but do provide valuable insight on question fidelity.

## New Item Types

The Next Generation NCLEX is testing a complex mix of item types that require nursing students to demonstrate their clinical judgment skills.

Item types being tested include:

- Extended Multiple Response
- Extended Drag-and-Drop
- CLOZE (fill-in-the-blank)
- Enhanced Hot Spot
- Dynamic Exhibit
- Constructed Response

### 5) RESEARCH MEASUREMENT

Psychometricians have received thousands of results from the NCLEX "Special Research Section." Ongoing analysis will help determine which item types accurately measure clinical judgment and nursing competence.

### 6) BUILD TECHNOLOGY

In 2019, NCSBN expects to have enough info to determine whether to continue moving forward with the project and begin to explore — and build — the complex technology needed to support the new item types.

### 7) PERFORM ALPHA/BETA TESTS

Multiple evaluations will be necessary to assess test questions. NCSBN will scrutinize every item type for those providing the highest accuracy.

### 8) LAUNCH NEW NCLEX

An operational phase of testing and building item types will likely take three to four years. The soonest you are likely to see a new version of NCLEX is 2022-2023.

# What Does Next Generation NCLEX Mean for You and Your Students?

NCSBN's initiative is both exciting and anxiety-inducing. A new NCLEX means better evaluation of graduates' readiness for real-life nursing practice — and more difficult, in-depth questions that put pass rates at risk.

**What can you do to prepare?** Use ATI solutions to sharpen and develop students' clinical judgment skills, including a **first-in-the-industry** resource specifically created to address the Next Generation NCLEX:

## THE NCLEX EXPERIENCE

Eighty percent of employers are dissatisfied with new nurses' decision-making abilities. Their lack of clinical judgment leads to poor client care, frustration, and attrition. This new resource from ATI is a robust tool addressing these issues. Use it to prepare students for real-life practice and the NCLEX-RN via advanced clinical judgment exercises. Its engaging tutorials and videos will prepare students for possible changes to the exam via a preview of the Next Generation NCLEX initiative. Students can then begin to acclimate to potential new NCLEX-style questions — designed to measure clinical judgment — and practice with mini quizzes featuring new question formats.

**This resource is beneficial to students throughout their nursing education:**

- **1st Year Students** gain insight into the biggest test of their lives with a solid overview of the exam.
- **Mid-Program/Advanced Students** hone their clinical judgment skills via challenging quizzes.
- **Last-Semester Students** prepare for the NCLEX using an overview of "Special Research Section" questions appearing on the current NCLEX-RN.

## SPECIFIC FEATURES

### Overview videos

- The NCLEX Experience
- NCLEX Tips & Strategies
- Next Generation NCLEX Research

### Next Generation NCLEX Item Type Quizzes

- Clinical Judgment Sample Items Quiz 1
- Clinical Judgment Sample Items Quiz 2

### Next Generation NCLEX Item Type Videos

- Extended Multiple Response
- CLOZE
- Extended Drag and Drop
- Highlight
- Dynamic Exhibit

## OTHER CLINICAL JUDGMENT RESOURCES

### NURSE'S TOUCH, THE COMMUNICATOR 2.0

Developing effective communication skills goes hand-in-hand with developing sound clinical judgment. Nurse's Touch, The Communicator 2.0, uses simulation to help students develop these essential skills. Students interact with virtual humans in repeated engagements, so they can learn and practice communication techniques for those key conversations they will experience as nurses.

### REAL LIFE CLINICAL REASONING SCENARIOS

Nurses lacking clinical reasoning skills make poorer nursing judgments, unable to differentiate between acute problems and those needing immediate attention and failing to detect impending patient deterioration. They may misidentify situations or use faulty logic. This solution addresses these vital issues using simulation, live-action videos, and immediate feedback after decision-making. Students achieve mastery through repeated exposure to key clinical situations, learning from errors and their consequences to improve future interactions and advance their knowledge.

**To learn more about these new products, contact your account representative.**

<sup>1</sup> Anna C. van Graan, Martha J.S. Williams, Magdalena P. Koen. *Professional Nurses' Understanding of Clinical Judgment: A Contextual Inquiry Health SA Gesondheid, Volume 21, December 2016, PP. 280-293*

The screenshot displays the 'The NCLEX® Experience RN (4)' interface. At the top right is a 'CLOSE' button. Below the title are 'View' and 'Sort' dropdown menus, with 'View' set to 'All' and 'Sort' set to 'Name'. A checkbox for 'Hide disabled modules (0 hidden)' is checked. The main content area is divided into three sections:

- Overview Videos:** Includes a 'PLAY VIDEOS' button, 'Time Spent: 05:58', and a 'RESULTS' button. Accessed: 10/9/2018.
- Next Generation NCLEX Item Type Videos:** Includes a 'PLAY VIDEOS' button, 'Time Spent: 04:29', and a 'RESULTS' button. Accessed: 10/9/2018.
- Next Generation NCLEX Item Type Quizzes:** Contains two quizzes: 'Clinical Judgment Sample Items Quiz 1' and 'Clinical Judgment Sample Items Quiz 2'. Each has a 'CONTINUE QUIZ' button, 'Time Spent' (00:27 and 00:33 respectively), and a 'RESULTS' button. Both accessed: 10/9/2018.

At the bottom, a promotional banner for 'WANT MORE NCLEX PREP?' features the text: 'Get ready to pass NCLEX with BoardVitals, a Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT) platform with thousands of NCLEX-style questions to give you the practice you need to prepare for NCLEX.' It includes a 'BUY NOW' button and the text: 'Try BoardVitals, our NCLEX prep quiz bank.'