

What is the Next Generation NCLEX (or NGN)?

*It's a new version of the NCLEX being developed.
Its purpose: to better evaluate your clinical judgment skills.*

What is clinical judgment?

It's the observed outcome of your critical thinking and decision-making. It's an iterative process — one that evolves over time — in which you use your nursing knowledge to:

- observe and assess situations you experience
- identify a prioritized client concern (one that needs to be addressed immediately)
- generate the best solution to deliver safe client care.

Clinical judgment is broken into 6 functions:

1. recognize cues
2. analyze cues
3. prioritize hypotheses
4. generate solutions
5. take actions
6. evaluate outcomes.

Why is clinical judgment important?

It's linked to 46% of the tasks you'll perform as an entry-level nurses. Unfortunately, research shows nearly half of all new nurses are involved in a nursing care error. That makes clinical judgment crucial to your success as a nurse.

How are the NCLEX test questions changing?

You'll see new question formats (referred to as item types) on the test that are focused specifically on testing your clinical judgment. The new question formats will be presented within case studies to ask you about the 6 clinical judgment functions (listed above) in order. You'll also encounter some additional new item types that won't be included in case studies but will be asked as individual questions. You'll hear them called standalone item types.

What are the new item types?

Case study item types include:

- Matrix multiple-choice
- Matrix multiple-response
- Multiple-response: Select all that apply
- Multiple-response: Select N
- Multiple-response: Grouping
- Drag-and-drop: Cloze
- Drag-and-drop: Rationale
- Drop-down: Cloze
- Drop-down: Rationale
- Drop-down: Table
- Highlight: Text
- Highlight: Table

Stand-alone item types include:

- Bow-tie
- Trend

When will the NGN changes take effect?

April 2023. But, if you take the NCLEX before then, you may be asked to participate in a "Special research section" at the end of your exam. This section — which doesn't count toward your score — helps test the new item types. By answering those questions, you'll be helping future nursing students, so consider it a good deed to participate.

How can you prepare for the NGN?

Look for opportunities to practice answering the new item types. The more familiar you are with them, the more comfortable you'll be when you encounter them on the NCLEX.

ATI has a variety of tools (listed below) that include the new question formats to use for practice. Look through your ATI resources to see if these solutions are available to you. If you don't see them, ask your instructor. These resources may be introduced in future courses, or they may be available for your school to purchase.

Available solutions

Next Generation NCLEX Question Overview

- Discover a safe place to practice answering the new item types using non-nursing content.

The NCLEX Experience

- View NCLEX overview videos and begin acclimating to NCLEX-style questions through engaging tutorials and practice with sample quizzes featuring new item types designed to measure clinical judgment.

Content Mastery Series (CMS)

Available for these subject areas for practice and proctored exams:

- Mental Health (RN/PN)
- Fundamentals (RN/PN)
- Adult Medical Surge (RN/PN)
- Nursing Care of Children (RN/PN)
- Maternal Newborn (RN/PN)

Custom Assessment Builder (CAB)

An option for your instructor to create practice tests that include the new item formats. Instructors can pull questions from the ATI Test Bank or create their own.

