Updates to the 2019 NCLEX-RN® Test Plan

Overall, the changes to the 2019 NCLEX-RN test plan were minimal.

What Changed?

- Minor revisions were made to some terminology for currency and clarification (e.g., “Participate in providing cost-effective care” was replaced with “Practice and advocate for cost-effective care”).
- Minimal changes to the entry-level nursing activity statements.
- The overview of content at the beginning of each category was removed. This prevents students from quickly reviewing content items and identifying things they do or do not know.
- Activity statement additions:
  - Addition of “Maintain percutaneous feeding tube” and “Manage client during a procedure with moderate sedation” under the Reduction of Risk Potential category.
  - Addition of “Provide care for a client experiencing grief or loss” under Psychosocial Integrity, and “Handle and/or administer high-risk medications” under Pharmacological and Parenteral Therapies.
- Transferred activity statements:
  - “Apply and/or maintain devices used to promote venous return (e.g., anti-embolic stockings, sequential compression devices)” transferred from Basic Care and Comfort to Reduction of Risk Potential.
  - “Report unsafe practice of health care personnel and intervene as appropriate (e.g., substance abuse, improper care, staffing practices)” transferred from Management of Care to Safety and Infection Control.

When Did the Changes Go into Effect?

- April 1, 2019

What Did Not Change?

- Overall format was retained.
- No change to the NCLEX client need content distribution percentages.
- The passing standard remains at the current level of 0.00 logits that was instituted April 1, 2016 and will remain in effect through March 31, 2022.

How Can HESI Help?

As always, we have closely monitored and reviewed the publishing of the 2019 NCLEX test plan to ensure our HESI exams reflect the most current changes. As the NCSBN has not made any modifications to the content distribution or the logits, the HESI blueprint remains current and reflective of the NCLEX test plan. We will continue to evaluate all our items to maintain relevancy and validity as we work towards the development of items for the Next Generation of NCLEX (NGN).

To learn more about our HESI solution, visit https://evolve.elsevier.com/education/gesi/

When is the Next Change?

The next test plan will be effective in 2022. Until then, the NCSBN will monitor all aspects of the NCLEX to ensure a psychometrically sound assessment. Also, be on the lookout for communications related to the Next Generation of NCLEX. NCSBN will continue to communicate project updates, research, and potential implications of the changes. Elsevier is monitoring these updates as our experts work to develop item types based on what has thus far been proposed. We will continue to assess our products in accordance to the new clinical judgment model and provide communications to help you prepare for NGN.