The need to implement changes to the NCLEX exam to more effectively assess clinical judgment, based on the nursing Clinical Judgment Model, remains a focal point for the nursing community following the recent NCSBN NCLEX Conference. This increased focus on evaluating student readiness for transition to practice creates the opportunity for technology and simulations to play an increased role in nursing education. Elsevier has a long tradition of providing exams aligned to the NCLEX blueprint and this will not change. Additionally, HESI exams have always provided, and will continue to provide, the needed experience and exposure to content and item types in preparation for the NCLEX exam.

What does NCSBN say is included in the NGN?

- New item types are in development; some are now included in the research sections of the NCLEX.
- New item types measure key skills necessary to succeed in entry-level nursing.
- Item types currently included in the research section include extended multiple-response items, extended drag-and-drop items, CLOZE items (select the missing word), enhanced hot-spot items, dynamic exhibit items, and constructed response items.
- NCSBN has not determined what combination of item types (current items, items on current research section, and those not yet researched) will be included on the NGN.

When will changes (new item types) go into effect?

- The new item types are still in the research phase.
- Special research sections will be included on the NCLEX during the development of the NGN.

What should faculty do to prepare for the NGN?

- Continue to prepare nursing students for NCLEX and practice using tools like the HESI secure exams that clearly show strong validity and reliability, particularly in regard to the NCLEX.
- Incorporate solutions into your curriculum that provide simulations and real-life scenarios, such as HESI preparation products and Elsevier’s Clinical Skills.
- Use and leverage data and insights available from these tools and others to support and target gaps in student knowledge or skills.

What is Elsevier doing to address the NGN?

Elsevier experts are aware of the proposed changes and are monitoring NCSBN communications closely. Dr. Donna Walls, Senior Director of Assessment, Research, and Faculty Development, will be spearheading an internal effort to evaluate our products from the perspective of the NCSBN’s Clinical Judgment model. Together with Dr. Christine Gouveia, Vice President of Applied Learning Sciences, a complete assessment will be performed to determine how our products currently support this model and evaluate areas where enhancements can be made to the Elsevier solution to support the Clinical Judgment Model.

Elsevier and HESI have been your trusted partners in NCLEX preparation, especially in times of change. This will continue for the next generation NCLEX. As NCSBN makes decisions about the future of the NCLEX exam, we will continue to work with you to prepare students for success.

For updates directly from NCSBN, sign up for publications such as Next Generation NCLEX News or In Focus. Additionally, Elsevier will continue to stay up-to-date with the latest developments and provide regular updates on our HESI In The News web page to keep you informed. Please contact us with any questions you might have.