

Preparing for the Next Generation NCLEX® (NGN): A Systematic Approach



The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) will launch the NGN no sooner than April 1, 2023. These exams for RN and PN candidates will measure clinical judgment cognitive skills outlined in the NCSBN Clinical Judgment Measurement Model (NCJMM) to help students think more critically in their future careers as nurses.

To help faculty teach students how to use the six cognitive (thinking) skills outlined in the NCJMM, and to be fully prepared for the changes in the NGN, here is the three-phase rollout plan developed by NGN experts Donna Ignatavicius and Linda Silvestri.



Phase 1: Focus on Clinical Judgment — Fall 2021

- Introduce the nursing process as a basic problem-solving process in the first nursing semester.
- Introduce clinical judgment as the thinking process that builds on the nursing process. Students will need clinical judgment for decision-making in more complex clinical situations.
- Decrease content saturation and focus on essential, “need-to-know” content that helps ensure client safety.
- Allow students time to process what they are learning and how to use knowledge in a variety of clinical situations.
- Use active learning strategies that require student thinking, rather than merely acquiring or retaining knowledge, such as concept maps, Socratic questioning, and case studies.
- Incorporate thinking into practice of psychomotor skills in low- to mid-fidelity simulation.
- Manipulate clinical situations to require critical thinking to perform psychomotor skills, rather than merely following a checklist.
- Increase/expand the use of high-fidelity simulations to assess cognitive thinking skills to make appropriate and safe clinical judgments.
- Attend faculty development workshops and webinars this year on how to help students develop clinical judgment using the six cognitive skills/processes of the NCJMM, and how to write new NGN-style test item types.





Phase 2: Introduction to the New NGN Test Items — Spring 2022

- Continue with activities outlined in Phase 1 in more complex contexts.
- Begin to use unfolding case studies and practice new NGN-style test item formats with students.
- Practice unfolding cases with NGN-style items in class, online, post-conference, and lab (not for grade); connect cases to curricular content being taught.
- Start with familiar test item types like multiple choice and multiple response. Then, add other new item types for unfolding cases.
- Help students understand which cognitive skills are being measured using new test item types.
- Review clinical scenarios and test items, discussing rationales to help students improve performance.
- After introducing and practicing unfolding cases with associated NGN-style item types, introduce standalone clinical scenarios with their two item types.
- Explore options for electronic testing using your LMS or other platform that can support the development and scoring of new NGN-style test item types in preparation for Phase 3.



Phase 3: Readiness for the NGN — Fall 2022–Spring 2023

- Continue with activities outlined in Phase 2 using more complex clinical scenarios.
- Begin to gradually include case studies and NGN-style test item formats on course exams in Fall 2022 as graded items.
- Gradually increase inclusion of NGN-style test items in unfolding and standalone clinical scenarios from exam to exam and course to course until the actual NGN test design is attained prior to graduation.

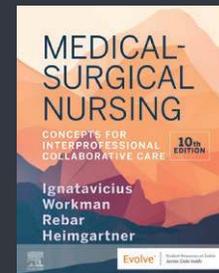
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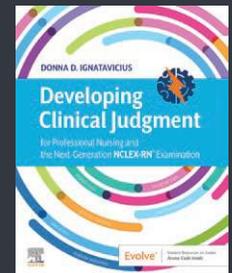
Additional Resources

Equip your program with textbooks that emphasize clinical judgment and the development of clinical judgment cognitive skills, as well as supplemental resources that focus on clinical judgment, developing clinical judgment cognitive skills, and providing ample practice with case studies and NGN-style items.

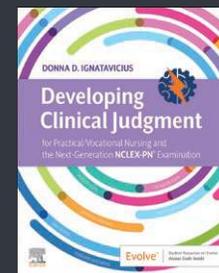
All Phases



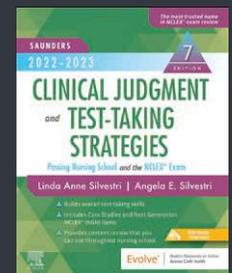
[Medical-Surgical Nursing: Concepts for Interprofessional Collaborative Care, 10th Edition](#)



[Developing Clinical Judgment for Professional Nursing and the Next-Generation NCLEX-RN Examination](#)

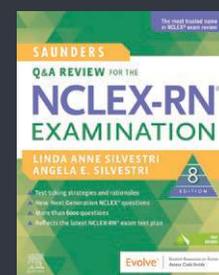


[Developing Clinical Judgment for Practical/Vocational Nursing and the Next-Generation NCLEX-PN Examination](#)



[Saunders 2022-2023 Clinical Judgment and Test-Taking Strategies: Passing Nursing School and the NCLEX Exam, 7th Edition](#)

Phase 3



[Saunders Q&A Review for the NCLEX-RN Examination, 8th Edition](#)