

Next Generation NCLEX® NEWS



Approved NGN Item Types



The Next Generation NCLEX® News is a quarterly publication that provides the latest information about the research being done to assess potential changes to the NCLEX Examinations.

Early in the Next Generation NCLEX® (NGN) project, NCSBN examined current NCLEX item types and their ability to measure clinical judgment and found them to measure aspects of nursing clinical judgment in a limited manner. This finding led to the development of new NCLEX item types thought to better measure the clinical judgment of entry-level nurses. [Usability studies](#) of the items were completed prior to field testing.

Item writing sessions for the NGN item types were held in order to determine new, effective ways to measure minimal competency for entry-level nursing clinical judgment on a valid and reliable exam. Based on psychometric analysis of these item prototypes' performance, NCSBN has approved five new item types that measure nursing clinical judgment. The following provides the names, descriptions and examples of the five item types.

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1. Extended Multiple Response

Extended Multiple Response items allow candidates to select one or more answer options at a time. This item type is similar to the current NCLEX multiple response items but with more options and using partial credit scoring.

The nurse is caring for a 17-year-old male client who reports a recent injury to the left thoracic cage.

Health History

Nurses' Notes

Vital Signs

Laboratory Results

Client reports injuring his left ribs after being struck by a mechanically pitched baseball in a batting cage last week. He has significant bruising and feels light headed. He also reports having some intermittent pain in the left shoulder. He denies any shortness of breath, but has some discomfort in the left lower chest when taking a deep breath. He reports feeling abdominal fullness and is occasionally nauseous. Patient has no significant past medical history. His surgical history includes an orthoscopic repair to the left shoulder for a torn rotator cuff last year. He has not felt well enough to attend baseball practice since the injury.

➤ The nurse has been asked to prepare the client for immediate surgery. Which of the following actions should the nurse take? Select all that apply.

- Mark the surgical site.
- Provide the client with ice chips.
- Obtain surgical consent from the client.
- Perform a medication reconciliation.
- Insert a peripheral venous access device (VAD).
- Inform the client about the risks and benefits of the surgery.
- Assess the client's previous experience with surgery and anesthesia.
- Ask the client's parents to wait in the waiting room while you discuss the plan of care with the client.

2. Extended Drag and Drop

Extended Drag and Drop items allow candidates to move or place response options into answer spaces. This item type is like the current NCLEX ordered response items but not all of the response options may be required to answer the item. In some items, there may be more response options than answers spaces.

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➤ Drag the assessment findings that require immediate follow-up to the box on the right.

Assessment Findings	Assessment Findings That Require Immediate Follow-up
productive cough	
BP 90/50, P 116, RR 24	
intermittent left shoulder pain	
ECG showing normal sinus rhythm	
slightly diminished breath sounds on the left	
T 97.8° F (36.6° C), O ₂ saturation 98% on room air	
Hgb 9 g/dL (19.0 x 10 ⁹ /L), HCT 27% (0.27), WBC 19,000/mm ³ (19.0 x 10 ⁹ /L)	
tenderness upon palpation and dullness to percussion over the abdomen	

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3. Cloze (Drop – Down)

Cloze (Drop-Down) Items allow candidates to select one option from a drop-down list. There can be more than one drop-down list in a Cloze item. These drop-down lists can be used as words or phrases within a sentence, within tables and charts.

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The nurse is initiating the client's plan of care.

➤ Complete the following sentence by using the list of options.

The nurse should first address the client's followed by the client's

Select...
abdominal pain
respiratory status
laboratory test results

4. Enhanced Hot Spot (Highlighting)

Enhanced Hot Spot items allow candidates to select their answer by highlighting pre-defined words or phrases. Candidates can select and deselect the highlighted parts by clicking on the words or phrases. These types of items allow an individual to read a portion of a client medical record, (e.g., a nursing note, medical history, lab values, medication record, etc.) and then select the words or phrases that answer the item.

The nurse is preparing to receive a client who is being transferred from the emergency department and is scheduled to arrive on the medical-surgical unit in 10 minutes. The nurse has received the following transfer report from a nurse in the emergency department, by telephone.

What does the nurse need to do to prepare for the client? Click to highlight the statements in the transfer report that require action by the nurse prior to the client's arrival.

This 73-year-old female client is being admitted for a perforation related to peptic ulcer disease. She also has hypertension and lower extremity peripheral artery disease. She has a 20-gauge venous access device in her right forearm and is currently receiving lactated Ringer's solution at 125 ml/hr. She is NPO, and she has nasogastric tube with an order for low intermittent suction. She has an order for intravenous pantoprazole; we gave her the first dose one our ago, and the next dose is due tomorrow. She has a body mass index (BMI) of 30, and she had significant paresthesias in both feet that make it difficult for her to walk and to transfer. She has an order for complete bed rest. She had abdominal pain when she arrived rated 8 on a scale of 0 (no pain) to 10 (severe pain), but she now rates her abdominal pain at 3 out of 10.

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5. Matrix/Grid

Matrix/Grid items allow the candidate to select one or more answer options for each row and/or column. This item type can be useful in measuring multiple aspects of the clinical scenario with a single item. **In the example below, each of the eight rows will need to have one of the three answer choices selected.**

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Health History **Nurses' Notes** **Vital Signs** **Laboratory Results**

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The nurse speaking with the physician regarding the treatment plan for the client who was just diagnosed with a splenic laceration and a left-sided hemothorax.

➤ For each potential order, click to specify whether the potential order is anticipated, nonessential or contraindicated for the client.

Potential Order	Anticipated	Nonessential	Contraindicated
echocardiogram	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
intravenous fluids	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
abdominal ultrasound	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
preparation for surgery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
serum type and screen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
chest percussion therapy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
insertion of a nasogastric (NG) tube	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
administration of prescribed pain medication	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

NGN Resources

For more information regarding the NGN project, please visit the [NCSBN website](#) that has many useful sections to browse. [NGN FAQs](#) answers common questions from candidates and educators. [NGN Resources](#) include past publications of the NGN News. The newsletter is published quarterly and provides the latest information about the work to assess potential changes to the NCLEX Examinations. [NGN Presentations and Talks](#) houses short NGN videos presented by the Examinations Department's staff and includes topics such as an introduction to NGN, item development, test validity, and many other aspects of the NGN research project.

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