You’ve completed the NCLEX® but you still have questions...
NCLEX FAQs

How are the results processed?
As part of the quality control process, every NCLEX® examination is scored twice: once by the computer at the test center and again after the examination record has been transmitted to Pearson VUE. Historically, approximately 86 percent of first-time, U.S.-educated candidates pass the NCLEX.

Candidate results are transmitted electronically to the board of nursing in the jurisdiction where the candidate has applied for licensure. Each board of nursing has developed its own procedure for distributing results to candidates. In most cases, candidates will receive results in the mail approximately six weeks after the examination. Do not call Pearson VUE, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN®) or your board of nursing for the results as they will not be released over the telephone.

What does the number of items I answered tell me about my results?
It is important to understand that the length of your NCLEX or the number of items answered is not an indication of a specific pass or fail result. It does indicate how close your ability was to the passing standard, but it could have been either above or below it. A candidate with a relatively short examination may pass or fail just as a candidate with a long examination may pass or fail.

Each candidate, regardless of the length of their examination, has ample opportunity to demonstrate their true ability and is given an examination that conforms to the NCLEX-RN® Test Plan or NCLEX-PN® Test Plan. Many candidates’ examinations will end before the maximum number of items has been administered.

Please do not be concerned if your examination finishes earlier or lasts longer than other candidates. The length of your examination is determined solely by your performance on the examination. The differing lengths of each candidate’s examination are an illustration of computerized adaptive testing (CAT) at work.

What if I ran out of time?
When a candidate runs out of time before completing the maximum number of items, the candidate will pass if their ability estimate has remained above the passing standard for the last 60 items. The candidate will fail if their ability estimate was below the passing standard for any of the last 60 items. This, however, does not mean that you have to answer the last 60 items correctly.
What if I did not pass?
Candidates who do not pass the NCLEX will receive a Candidate Performance Report (CPR), which shows their areas of relative strength and weakness in the content areas of the NCLEX-RN Test Plan or NCLEX-PN Test Plan. This report is provided to help candidates prepare for their next examination.

Candidates must wait a minimum of 45 or 90 days between each examination. This period of time is determined by each individual board of nursing and NCSBN.

Contact your board of nursing to obtain the necessary forms and information to reregister at any time. However, once declared eligible by your board of nursing, your new Authorization to Test (ATT) will not be valid until the required 45 or 90 days between examinations elapses.

Is there an opportunity to challenge an item?
Some boards of nursing have laws or regulations that allow failing NCLEX candidates to review the actual test items answered incorrectly, and challenge the accuracy of items and answers. More specific information about review, challenge and fees for this service must be obtained from your board of nursing.

What should I do about NCLEX® administration problems?
If you have any problems or complaints regarding the NCLEX or its administration, please contact NCSBN within two weeks of your examination. Contact information is provided on the back of this brochure.

For general information and frequently asked questions regarding the NCLEX, visit NCSBN’s website at www.ncsbn.org/nclex.htm.

NCLEX® Confidentiality
Candidates should be aware and understand that the disclosure of examination items before, during or after the examination is a violation of law. Violations of confidentiality and/or candidates’ rules can result in criminal prosecution or civil liability and/or disciplinary actions by the licensing agency, including the denial of licensure.

If you are aware of, or have observed, an attempt to compromise the NCLEX process, please report it to the NCLEX® Test Security group. Candidates may report any suspicious behavior in the following ways:
- Call NCSBN at 1.866.293.9600; or
- Email examssecurity@ncsbn.org.

NCLEX® Quick Results Service
Many boards of nursing participate in the quick results service. Results are unofficial and are available 48 business hours after your appointment. Only your licensing board of nursing can issue your official results. To access your quick results, go to www.pearsonvue.com/nclex, select “My Account” and follow the instructions to sign in with your user name and password. The cost is $7.95, payable by credit, debit or prepaid card. Contact Pearson VUE at 1.866.496.2539 if you are unable to locate your user name and password.