

Next Generation NCLEX® NEWS

Item Development for the Next Generation NCLEX® (NGN)

The Next Generation NCLEX News is a quarterly publication that provides the latest information about ongoing research to assess potential changes to the NCLEX Examinations. In this issue, you will find information related to the item prototype development for the Next Generation NCLEX (NGN) project.

The NGN project began with development of an operational definition of nursing clinical judgment (CJ), defined as the observed outcome of critical thinking and decision making. It is an iterative process that uses nursing knowledge to observe and assess presenting situations, identify a prioritized client concern and generate the best possible evidence-based solutions in order to deliver safe client care.

NCSBN brought together experts from measurement, test content and technology fields to imagine item prototypes that could potentially measure CJ. This collaboration resulted in research, literature review and pilot studies, which helped identify new item prototypes that would focus on various aspects of the Clinical Judgment Measurement Model (CJMM).



With this knowledge, a team of dedicated nurses began writing item prototypes that mapped to the CJMM. These item prototypes that became the initial research focus included: EMR (Extended Multiple Response), DD (Extended Drag and Drop), CLOZE, Enhanced HS (Hot Spot), DE (Dynamic Exhibit), and CR (Constructed Response). The item prototypes were developed and reviewed by a team using an iterative process. The team included nurses, psychometricians, content developers and a systems engineer to develop the enhanced item types. After reviewing several item prototypes, NCSBN conducted a usability study, the results of which helped target specific needs for further item development.

At this point, the team developed a strategy for item development workshops that concentrated solely on developing NGN item prototypes to ensure that the emphasis remained focused on developing new and innovative item types as part of the NGN research goals.

Several aspects of the NGN workshop process are similar to the item writing and review panel meetings that are conducted for the current NCLEX development process.

The NGN workshops adhere to the following format:

- **Volunteers are recruited and vetted based on their expertise;**
- **The item development and review work is completed in a face-to-face collaborative environment; and**
- **The volunteers reflect the diverse group of experts, including all four U.S. NCSBN geographical areas and Canada.**

The NGN workshops combine both item writing and item review. Participants spend the first half of the workshop writing fidelity-based case studies and the second half reviewing the case studies of other participants. One key goal of these workshops has been to develop a myriad of diverse items that meet the NGN research goals to understand and assess measuring clinical judgment.

Continued on next page

The NGN workshop goals are as follows:

- Bridging the gap between the theoretical CJMM and the concrete task of item writing;
- Assisting writers with developing ideas that are most relevant to the CJMM;
- Reducing the cognitive demands on writers by developing useful tools for item development and summarizing key information; and
- Ensuring the items have fidelity by providing an interactive picture that reflects the nursing profession.

To date, there have been several NGN workshops. The first phase of workshops focused on scenarios/ case studies. Case studies are sequenced items developed to address a single scenario or client situation. Each case study has the potential to provide fidelity by including a whole picture scenario, within context, that allows an entry-level nurse the opportunity to interact with a realistic situation. Unlike individual knowledge items, case studies allow for nurse-client interactions and provide insight into measuring CJ.

The more recent workshops have focused on the CJMM. Item writers have concentrated on creating items for specific components of the CJMM with the goal of developing item prototypes that effectively measure entry-level nurses' clinical judgment and decision-making skills.

The NGN item development process is exploratory and remains tailored toward evidence gathering and research. Because item development is an important step in understanding item type interaction, potential scoring rules, and has enabled research and evidence gathering related to CJ, the item development process and NGN workshops are a critical part of building a diverse set of item prototypes.

Looking for updates about the NGN Project?
[Sign up for the email list to receive future issues of this publication](#)

Next Generation NCLEX® News is published by
National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)



111 E. Wacker Drive, Suite 2900
Chicago, IL 60601-4277
Phone: 312.525.3600
International Calls: +1.312.525.3600
Website: www.ncsbn.org



NCSBN provides education, service and research through collaborative leadership to promote evidence-based regulatory excellence for patient safety and public protection.

Copyright ©2018 NCSBN. All Rights Reserved.