



NCSBN
Leading Regulatory Excellence

NGN Talks: Item Development Video Transcript

©2019 National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc.

More info: <https://www.ncsbn.org/13406.htm>

Presenter

Betty Sanders, MBA, PMP, CAE, Test Development Manager, Examinations, NCSBN

The Next Generation NCLEX Project also known as NGN began with development of an operational definition of nursing clinical judgment or CJ. CJ is 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 CJ model.

With this knowledge, a team of dedicated nurses began writing item prototypes that map to the CJ model. The item prototypes that became the initial research focus included Extended Multiple Response, Extended Drag and Drop, CLOZE, Enhanced Hot Spot, Dynamic Exhibit and Constructed Response, which are items where candidates type in their answers.

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. They developed the enhanced item types. After reviewing several item prototypes, NCSBN conducted a usability study, the results of which helped identify 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 remain 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 use the following format. Volunteers are recruited and vetted based on their expertise. The volunteers reflect a diverse group of experts, including participants from all four U.S. NCSBN geographical areas and Canada, and the item development and review work is completed in a face to face collaborative environment.

NGN workshops focus on either item writing or item review. Some workshops combine both the writing and the review. In those 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 diverse set of items that meet the NGN research goals to understand and assess measuring clinical judgment.

The NGN workshop goals are to bridge the gap between the theoretical CJ model and the concrete task of item writing, assist writers with developing ideas that are most relevant to the CJ model, reduce the cognitive demands on writers by developing useful tools for item development and summarizing key information and ensure the items have fidelity by providing an interactive picture that reflects the nursing profession.

Today, there have been several NGN workshops. The first phase of workshops focused on scenarios or 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 the 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 CJ model. Item writers have concentrated on creating items for specific components of the CJ model with the goal of developing item prototypes that effectively measure entry level nurse's 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.

You can learn more about the NGN project at ncsbn.org.