Preparing for the NCLEX

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Objectives

• Discuss NCLEX and the testing process

• Discuss location of NCLEX information

• Share tips that have helped others to pass the NCLEX
Kansas Licensure History

• First examination given in December 1913
  – 10 candidates
    • 8 passed, 2 failed
  – Board of Nursing wrote and graded the examination
    • Essay question on cards
    • Wrote answers
  – Last paper and pencil exam given in 1994
Computerized Adaptive Testing

- CAT started in 1994
- Each test is tailored to the examinee
- Presents the examinee with items best for measuring ability
- Computer re-estimates ability each time a question is answered
- Ability estimate gets more precise with each question answered
- Computer selects next item to be challenging
What is NCLEX?

• The examination is designed to test:
  – Knowledge
  – Skills
  – Abilities

• Essential to the safe & effective practice of nursing at the entry level
NCLEX Development Process

• Practice analysis of entry-level nurses
• Test plan is developed using legal scope of nursing practice and practice analysis
• Item writers are practicing nurses
• Panel reviews the newly-written items
• All items on the exam have been pretested
NCLEX Test Plans

NCLEX – RN and NCLEX – PN test plans

• Serve as a guideline for examination content
• Reviewed by the NCSBN Examination Committee after job analysis
• Can be found to download at:
  • RN: [www.ncsbn.org](http://www.ncsbn.org)
    • New Plan effective April 2016
  • PN: [www.ncsbn.org](http://www.ncsbn.org)
    • Plan effective April 2017
• Safe and Effective Care Environment
  – Coordinated Care (18 – 24%)
  – Safety and Infection Control (10 – 16%)
• Health Promotion and Maintenance (6 – 12%)
• Psychosocial Integrity (9 – 15%)
• Physiological Integrity
  – Basic Care and Comfort (7 – 13%)
  – Pharmacological Therapies (10 – 16%)
  – Reduction of Risk Potential (9 – 15%)
  – Physiological Adaptation (7 – 13%)
RN Test Plan – 2016

- Safe Effective Care Environment
  - Management of Care (17 – 23%)
  - Safety and Infection Control (9 – 15%)
- Health Promotion and Maintenance (6 – 12%)
- Psychosocial Integrity (6 – 12%)
- Physiological Integrity
  - Basic Care and Comfort (6 – 12%)
  - Pharmacological and Parenteral Therapies (12 – 18%)
  - Reduction of Risk Potential (9 – 15%)
  - Physiological Adaptation (11 – 17%)
Passing Standards

• Re-evaluated every 3 years
• Criterion used to set passing standards
  – Minimum amount of knowledge, skills and ability required for safe and effective entry-level nursing practice
• Passing Standard for RN NCLEX was not changed starting April 1, 2016
Pass or Fail Decision Rules

- Governed by three different scenarios:
  - 95% confidence interval rule
  - Maximum length exam
  - Run-out-of-time rule
Innovative Questions

- Multiple responses
- Fill in the blank calculation
- Ordered response
- Hot spots
- All item types may include multimedia (charts, table, graphics, sound and video)
Guessing

• Rapid guessing can drastically lower your score
  – Effect of giving the candidate easier items
  – Answer wrong

• Best advice
  – Reasonable pace (spend no more than one to two minutes on each item)
  – Read and consider each item before answering
NCLEX RN

• 75 to 265 items
• 15 pretest items
• Time limit is six hours
  – Tutorial
  – Sample items
  – All breaks
  – Examination
• 85 to 205 items
• 25 pretest items
• Time limit is five hours
  – Tutorial
  – Sample items
  – All breaks
  – Examination
NCLEX Accommodations

- Requests for testing accommodations must be submitted to KSBN within 15 calendar days of the licensure application being submitted.
- Do NOT schedule NCLEX testing time until you have received written confirmation of your accommodations.
- Candidates with accommodations CANNOT schedule their appointment through NCLEX candidate website.
NCLEX Registration Overview

• Register for the NCLEX with Pearson Vue
• Submit initial licensure application to KSBN
• Meet all of KSBN’s eligibility requirements to take the NCLEX
• Receive NCLEX registration acknowledgement email from Pearson Vue
• KSBN makes you eligible to take the NCLEX
• Receive Authorization to Test (ATT) email from Pearson VUE
• Schedule your exam with Pearson VUE
Registration Process

• Follow Candidate Bulletin
• Register for NCLEX via internet or telephone
• Email address is required
• All correspondence from Pearson VUE will arrive only by email
• Pearson VUE registration valid for 365 days, KSBN for 6 months
Rescheduling/Unschedueling

• Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday appointments must be changed 24 hours in advance of the original date and time

• Saturday, Sunday or Monday appointments must be changed no later than the Friday 24 hours before the original date and time
Testing & Sites

• Sites
  – Topeka, Wichita, Hays & Overland Park

• You are guaranteed a time to test within 30 days of when you request a time
  – If you have difficulty, call KSBN

• Can take the exam at any approved center in the U.S.
NCLEX Pass Rates

• What are the average NCLEX pass rates for Kansas nursing programs for 2017??
  
  – RN:
  
  – PN:

• National average:
  
  – RN:
  
  – PN:
ID Requirements

• Acceptable identification
  – U.S. driver’s license
    • Learner’s permit or temporary ID are NOT acceptable
  – U.S. state identification
  – Passport
  – U.S. military identification

• Identification must be in English and signed in English

• Must be valid and not expired with signature and photograph
• First and last name on ID must match exactly the first and last name you registered with

• If first and last names do not match you will be turned away and required to re-register and pay another examination fee

• All documentation must be in English and original
Test Rules and Regulations

• Printed in Candidate Bulletin (www.ncsbn.org)

• Will be followed strictly – review before testing

• NCSBN may cancel or withhold your results if there is a basis to question the validity of your exam results
Eligibility to Test

- KSBN makes candidate eligible to test
- NCLEX issues Authorization to Test
- Applicant schedules exam (online or telephone)
Day of the Exam

• Arrive at least 30 minutes before scheduled testing time

• Must present valid acceptable ID

• Provide the following:
  – Digital signature
  – Palm vein scan
  – Photograph

• Required to place all electronic devices in Pearson Vue provided sealable bag to be stored in your locker
Breaks

- First is offered after two hours
- Second is offered after three and one half hours
- Must leave during breaks
- Palm vein before and after break
- Not allowed to access any of the prohibited personal items
- All personal items accessed (including purses, wallets, etc) may be inspected by the TA
- Count against testing time
Your Tools

• Computer

• Computer mouse

• Drop down calculator on computer

• Dry erase board and marker
What You Can’t Do

• Skip questions

• Review questions

• Change answers once submitted
Preparing for the Exam

• Begin with a positive mental attitude. Don’t have a defeated feeling.

• Decide if you study best by yourself or with a study buddy – everyone studies differently

• Don’t neglect your body – good nutrition and exercise

• What you put in is what you get out
Preparing for the Exam

• Go though 4,000 to 6,000 practice questions
  – Questions with rationales are best
• NCLEX Review Courses
• Take the test as soon as you can, but be well prepared
• Take advantage of resources available in your nursing program
Preparing for the Exam

- If you are a visual learning, use multimedia, graphics and the internet
- If you are an auditory learner, use audiobooks, mp3 players, etc
- If you learn best by interacting try to study with a buddy or a group
- There is a wealth of apps and lessons available – you can still study when you are not in front of the computer
Preparing for the Exam

• Develop a good study plan
• If you need a structured study program, a review course is good
• Determine the number of days until your exam date and then plan the number of hours you need to study each day
• Most concentrate best for a two hour period with a ten minute break
Preparing for the Exam

• It is important to establish a routine for studying
• Know the NCLEX test plan categories and percentages
• Deep breathing, visualization, muscle relaxation and positive self-talk are all effective ways of controlling test anxiety
Locating NCLEX Information

• National Council of State Boards of Nursing website (www.ncsbn.org)
  – Application and Registration
  – Before the Exam
  – Exam Day
  – Testing locations
  – FAQs
Results Reporting

• Every NCLEX is scored twice
  – Once by the computer at the test center
  – Result is verified after the exam record has been transmitted

• Examination results are available only from the board of nursing
Exam Results

- Results will not be released by phone or in person
- Typical turnaround time
  - Results received via web day of exam
  - Results downloaded to KSBN
  - Successful candidates
    - Pass results printed next business day
    - License card printed and mailed
  - Unsuccessful candidates will receive
    - Candidate Performance Report
Candidate Performance Report

• If candidate fails to pass, KSBN sends a Candidate Performance Report
  – Identifies the areas failed
  – Provides the number of items administered to the candidate
  – Summary of the candidate’s strengths and weaknesses based on the test plan

• Intended to guide the candidate with their study before retaking the exam
Retaking NCLEX

• Can retest every 45 days

• Resubmit an initial licensure application to KSBN

• Register with Pearson VUE and pay fee each attempt

• When it has been more than 24 months after graduation must petition KSBN
Review & Challenge

• Only failure candidates can review the exam

• Can review only incorrectly answered questions

• NCSBN fees for reviewing the examination:
  – $400 to schedule
  – $200 for each item challenged

• KSBN fees
  – Time
  – Expenses
Graduation Trivia

• How many students graduated from nursing programs in Kansas between 7/1/16 – 6/30/17 ??

  – BSN:
  – ADN:
  – PN:
• Where is one place you can go to find most of your answers about NCLEX?

  – Nursing Faculty
  – Kansas Board of Nursing
  – Internet
  – Candidate Bulletin
Questions ??

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www.ksbn.org