

Next Generation **NCLEX** NEWS



- **Learnability:** user can easily accomplish tasks based on the design;
- **Efficiency:** user can easily perform tasks once the design is learned;
- **Memorability:** user is able to reestablish proficiency when returning to the design; and
- **Errors:** user helps with understanding specific errors that occur due to issues with the design.

To address the emerging needs for assessing clinical judgment more directly, the goal of the NGN usability study was to identify more innovative items and response types than those used today on the NCLEX. The objective of the studies was to contribute additional relevant information to the NGN research and evaluation of clinical judgment.

Currently, the NCLEX utilizes mainly multiple-choice or multiple-response type items. These items have a common universal layout and well-known methods for obtaining responses from candidates using radio buttons or checkboxes. However, the newer next generation items measuring clinical judgment employ a wider range of response options and item design features. In addition, NGN prototypes have authentic case study type scenarios where a number of questions became a set of interrelated items representing a scenario, whereas today all items on the NCLEX are unique to themselves.

Given the divergence of current NCLEX items and newer next generation items, there were a number of important considerations that had to be explored to ensure that the new items were easily comprehended and simple to use by the candidate population. This is critical to the validity of the new item and response types in order to ensure that item difficulty is driven by the nature of the item content and required skills, and not by irrelevant features of the item presentation (e.g., poor design, ambiguous response methods).

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111 E. Wacker Drive, Suite 2900
Chicago, IL 60601-4277

Phone: 312.525.3600
International Calls:
+1.312.525.3600

Website: www.ncsbn.org

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