

# NCLEX-RN<sup>®</sup> Examination

Test Plan for the National Council  
Licensure Examination for  
Registered Nurses



Michigan State

The National Council of State Board of Nursing (NCSBN) provides education, advice and research through collaborative efforts to promote the regulatory process for patient safety and public protection.

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based on knowledge of the human condition across the life span and the relationships of an individual with others and within the environment. Nursing is a dynamic, continually evolving discipline that employs critical thinking to integrate increasingly complex knowledge, skills, technologies, and client care activities into evidence-based nursing practice. The goal of nursing for client care is preventing illness and potential complications; protecting, promoting, restoring, and facilitating comfort; health; and dignity in dying.

The registered nurse provides a unique, comprehensive assessment of the health status of the client, applying principles of ethics, client safety, health promotion and the nursing process, the nurse then develops and implements an explicit plan of care considering unique cultural and spiritual client preferences, the applicable standard of care and legal instructions. The nurse assists clients to promote health, cope with health problems, adapt to and/or recover from the effects of disease or injury, and support the right to a dignified death. The registered nurse is accountable for abiding by all applicable member board jurisdiction statutes related to nursing practice.

Bloom's taxonomy for the cognitive domain is used as a basis for writing and coding items for the examination (Bloom, et al., 1956; Anderson & Krathohl, 2001). Since the practice of nursing requires application of knowledge, skills and abilities, the majority of items are written at the application or higher levels of cognitive ability, which requires more complex thought processing.

The framework of Client Needs was selected for the examination because it provides a universal structure for defining nursing actions and competencies, and focuses on clients in all settings.

The content of the NCLEX-RN Test Plan is organized into four major Client Needs categories. Two of the four categories are divided into subcategories:

**Safe and Effective Care Environment**

- „ Management of Care
- „ Safety and Infection Control

**Health Promotion and Maintenance**

**Psychosocial Integrity**

**Physiological Integrity**

- „ Basic Care and Comfort
- „ Pharmacological and Parenteral Therapies
- „ Reduction of Risk Potential
- „ Physiological Adaptation

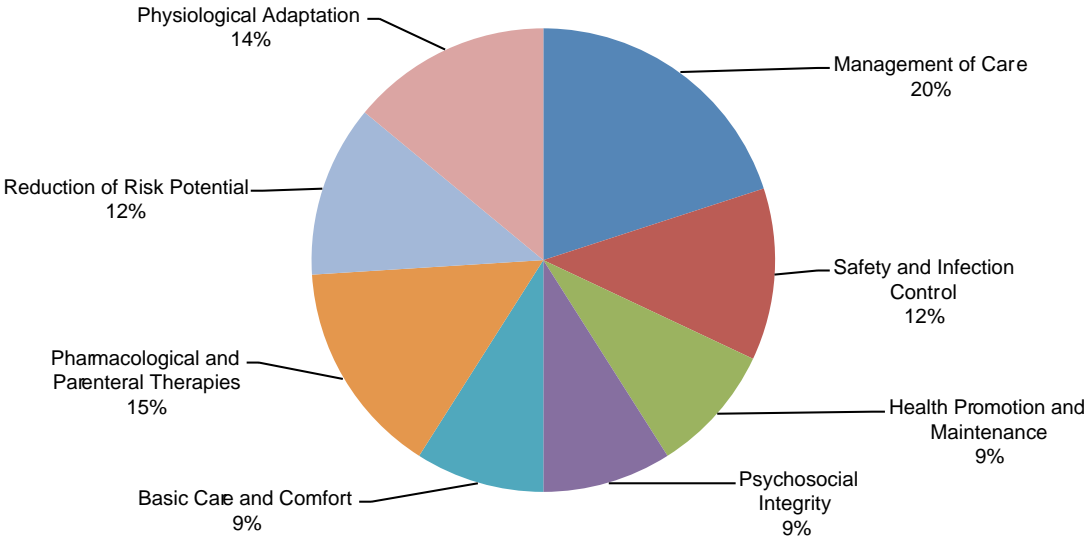
The following processes are fundamental to the practice of nursing and are integrated throughout the Client Needs categories and subcategories:

- „ **Nursing Process** – a scientific, clinical reasoning approach to client care that includes assessment, analysis, planning, implementation and evaluation.
- „ **Caring** – interaction of the nurse and client in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust. In this collaborative environment, the nurse provides encouragement, hope, support and compassion to help achieve desired outcomes.
- „ **Communication and Documentation** – verbal and nonverbal interactions between the nurse and the client, the client’s significant others and the other members of the health care team. Events and activities associated with client care are recorded in written and/or electronic records that demonstrate adherence to the standards of practice and accountability in the provision of care.
- „ **Teaching/Learning** – facilitation of the acquisition of knowledge, skills and attitudes promoting a change in behavior.
- „ **Culture and Spirituality** – interaction of the nurse and the client (individual, family or group, including significant others and population) which recognizes and considers the client-reported, self-identified, unique and individual preferences to client care, the applicable standard of care and legal instructions.

The percentage of test questions assigned to each Client Needs category and subcategory of the NCLEX-RN Test Plan is based on the results of the **Report of Findings from the 2014 RN Practice Analysis: Linking the NCLEX-RN® Examination to Practice** (NCSBN, 2014), and expert judgment provided by members of the NCLEX® Examination Committee.

Client Need	Percentage of Items from Each Category /Subcategory
Safe and Effective Care Environment	

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- „ **Safety and Infection Control** – protecting clients and health care personnel from health and environmental hazards.

Related content includes but is not limited to:

- „ Accident/Error/Injury Prevention
- „ Emergency Response Plan
- „ Ergonomic Principles
- „ Handling Hazardous and Infectious Materials
- „ Home Safety
- „ Reporting of Incident/Event/Irregular Occurrence/Variance
- „ Safe Use of Equipment
- „ Security Plan
- „ Standard Precautions/Transmission-Based Precautions/Surgical Asepsis
- „ Use of Restraints/Safety Devices

### **Health Promotion and Maintenance**

The nurse provides and directs nursing care of the client that incorporates the knowledge of expected growth and development principles; prevention and/or early detection of health problems, and strategies to achieve optimal health.

Related content includes but is not limited to:

- „ Aging Process
- „ Ante/Intra/Postpartum and Newborn Care
- „ Developmental Stages and Transitions
- „ Health Promotion/Disease Prevention
- „ Health Screening
- „ High Risk Behaviors
- „ Lifestyle Choices
- „ Self-Care
- „ Techniques of Physical Assessment

### **Psychosocial Integrity**

The nurse provides and directs nursing care that promotes and supports the emotional, mental and social well-being of the client experiencing stressful events, as well as clients with acute or chronic mental illness.

Related content includes but is not limited to:

- „ Abuse/Neglect
- „ Behavioral Interventions
- „ Chemical and Other Dependencies/Substance Use Disorder
- „ Coping Mechanisms
- „ Crisis Intervention
- „ Cultural Awareness/Cultural Influences on Health
- „ End of Life Care
- „ Family Dynamics
- „ Grief and Loss
- „ Mental Health Concepts
- „ Religious and Spiritual Influences on Health
- „ Sensory/Perceptual Alterations
- „ Stress Management
- „ Support Systems
- „ Therapeutic Communication
- „ Therapeutic Environment

## Physiological Integrity

The nurse promotes physical health and wellness by providing care and comfort, reducing client risk potential and managing health alterations.

- „ **Basic Care and Comfort** - providing comfort and assistance in the performance of activities of daily living.

Related content includes but is not limited to:

- „ Assistive Devices
- „ Elimination
- „ Mobility/Immobility
- „ Non-Pharmacological Comfort Interventions
- „ Nutrition and Oral Hydration
- „ Personal Hygiene
- „ Rest and Sleep

- „ **Pharmacological and Parenteral Therapies** - providing care related to the administration of medications and parenteral therapies.

Related content includes but is not limited to:

- „ Adverse Effects/Contraindications/Side Effects/Interactions
- „ Blood and Blood Products
- „ Central Venous Access Devices
- „ Dosage Calculation
- „ Expected Actions/Outcomes
- „ Medication Administration
- „ Parenteral/Intravenous Therapies
- „ Pharmacological Pain Management
- „ Total Parenteral Nutrition

- „ **Reduction of Risk Potential** - reducing the likelihood that clients will develop complications or health problems related to existing conditions, treatments or procedures.

Related content includes but is not limited to:

- „ Changes/Abnormalities in Vital Signs
- „ Diagnostic Tests
- „ Laboratory Values
- „ Potential for Alterations in Body Systems
- „ Potential for Complications of Diagnostic Tests/Treatments/Procedures
- „ Potential for Complications from Surgical Procedures and Health Alterations
- „ System Specific Assessments
- „ Therapeutic Procedures

- „ **Physiological Adaptation** - managing and providing care for clients with acute, chronic or life threatening physical health conditions.

Related content includes but is not limited to:

- „ Alterations in Body Systems
- „ Fluid and Electrolyte Imbalances
- „ Hemodynamics
- „ Illness Management
- „ Medical Emergencies
- „ Pathophysiology
- „ Unexpected Response to Therapies







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