Preparing for the NCLEX

Carol Moreland, MSN, APRN, CNS
Education Specialist, KSBN
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 – 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
    • New Plan effective April 2016
  • PN:  www.ncsbn.org
    • Plan effective April 2014
PN Test Plan - 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
NCLEX PN

- 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

- Submit initial licensure application to KSBN
- Meet all of KSBN’s eligibility requirements to take the NCLEX
- Register for the NCLEX with Pearson VUE
- 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/Unscheduling

- 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 2016?
  
  – 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
Your Name

• 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 7/1/15 – 6/30/16 ??

  – BSN:
  – ADN:
  – PN:
Important Reminder

- 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 ??

Carol Moreland, MSN, RN
Education Specialist
Kansas State Board of Nursing
785-296-5036
carol.moreland@ksbn.state.ks.us
www.ksbn.org