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NCSBN and the Next Generation NCLEX® (NGN) Project

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Objectives

- ❑ Discuss NCSBN Clinical Judgment research
- ❑ Define Clinical Judgment Model
- ❑ Review NGN item prototypes

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Research and Clinical Judgment Measurement Model

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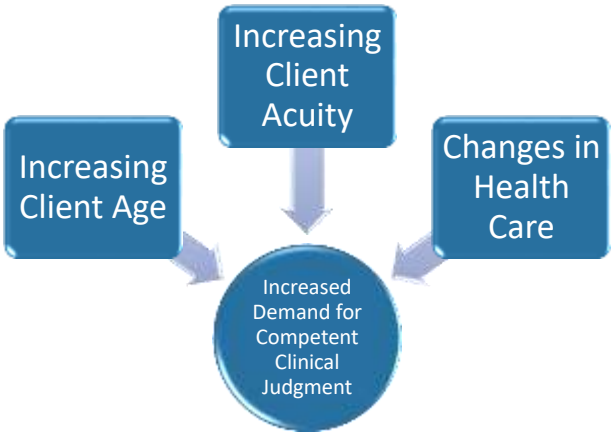
Nursing and Clinical Judgment



Kavanaugh and Szweda (2017) have identified a deficit in clinical judgment exists with entry-level nurses.

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The Beginnings

NEC* 2012: Is the NCLEX® measuring the right things?

*NCLEX Examination Committee

2015: Strategic Practice Analysis Pilot Study

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Literature Review Findings

- Education regarding critical thinking, clinical decision making, and clinical judgment has already become a standard part of nursing curricula

50% novice nurses involved in nursing errors

65% errors attributed to poor clinical decision making

20% employers satisfied with clinical decision making skills of novice nurses

- Clinical judgment is important for public safety

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Recent Evidence to Support NGN Research

2012 Functional Job Analysis (RNs)	2015 Strategic Job Analysis (RNs)
• 2,522 SMEs • 24 Practice Settings • All 4 Geographic Regions • 50 States and/or U.S. Territories • Tenure ranges 0 – 45 years	• 90 SMEs • 20 Practice Settings • All 4 Geographic Regions • 33 States • Tenure ranges 2 – 45 years

Top 3 Areas Identified:

1. Clinical Judgment
2. Professional Communications
3. Active Listening

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Summary

- Clinical judgment is a necessary skill for the novice nurse.
- Client care and nurse errors can be improved by enhancing clinical judgment skills in novice nurses.
- There is a clear need for a direct, extensive, and explicit assessment of this construct in entry-level nurses.
- Assessing clinical judgment is a critical component of the overall goal of NCLEX ascertaining minimum competency.
- Clinical judgment currently is indirectly tested in a limited manner through integration across activity statements.

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Development of NCSBN Clinical Judgment Measurement Model

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Clinical Judgment Model Frameworks

Three predominant nursing theoretical frameworks for assessing clinical judgment

- Intuitive-Humanistic Model (Benner)
- Dual Process Reasoning Theory/Model
- Information Processing Model

Nursing clinical judgment is difficult to define.

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Nursing Process Overview

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Clinical Judgment Model Definition

January 2015:
Operational definition of nursing clinical judgment

Clinical judgment 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.

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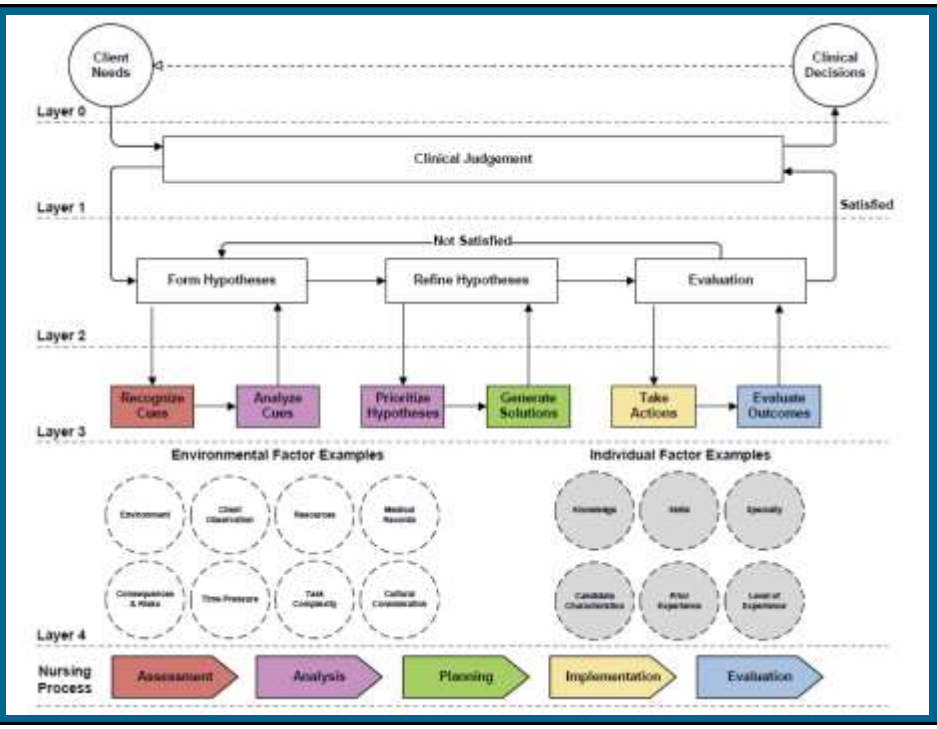

- Focus is solely on measurement of Clinical Judgment
- Does not replace current models of teaching/learning
- Does not replace Nursing Process

Definitions of Layer 3

- **Recognize Cues-** Filtering information from different sources (e.g., signs, symptoms, medical history)
- **Analyze Cues-** Linking the recognized cues to the client's clinical presentation and establishing probable client needs, concerns, or problems
- **Prioritize Hypothesis-** Evaluating and ranking hypotheses according to priority (urgency, likelihood, risk, difficulty, time, etc.)
- **Generate Solutions-** Identifying expected outcomes and using hypotheses to define a set of interventions for the expected outcome
- **Take Action-** Implementing the solution(s) that addresses the highest priorities; sometimes no action is an action itself
- **Evaluate Outcomes-** Comparing observed outcomes against expected outcomes

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Applying the CJ Task Model in Education

- Cognitive Operations = Layer 3
- Factor Conditioning = Layer 4
- Expected behaviors/actions = appropriate student actions or observable outcomes
- The CJ Model assesses if a student is able to make an appropriate nursing clinical judgment by following the cognitive operations through an entire case study.

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Cognitive Function	Conditioning Factor(s)	Expected Behaviors
Recognize Cues	**Environment Cues:**	**Recognize abnormal vs normal**
	Patient Observation Cues:	**Recognize signs and symptoms**
	Medical Record Cues:	
	Time Pressure Cues:	**Identify history of**
Analyze Cues	**Requires knowledge of signs and symptoms of…**	
Prioritize Hypothesis	**Can give vital signs as resource** **Can add time pressure for context of vital signs**	Requires prioritization of condition… Address condition of…
Generate Solutions	**Knowledge of conditions** **Knowledge of treatment for conditions with nursing intervention**	
Take Actions	**Experience:**	Nursing Intervention…
Evaluate Outcomes	**Experience:**	Follow-up on labs, vital signs, assessment etc- determine improvement or worsening of condition being treated
	Patient Observation Cue:	

Next Generation NCLEX (NGN) Prototypes

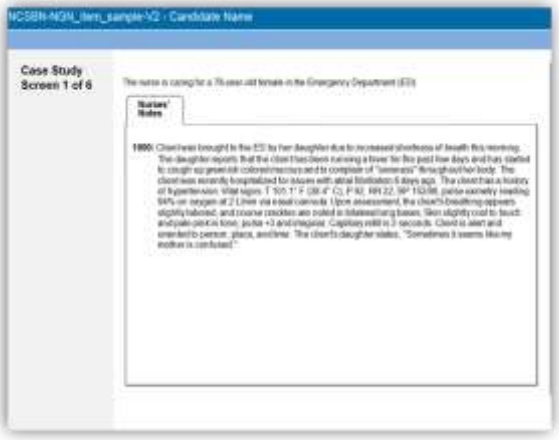
NGN Case Study – What is it?

The primary way the NGN will measure Clinical Judgment is through the use of case studies.

- Similar to “unfolding scenarios” common today in nursing education
- Body of information (“stimulus” or “scenario”) followed by six related questions
- Each question tests an important element of clinical judgment

As you review the sample provided, are you able to identify the connections to real-world, safe and effective care?

NGN Case Study – Sample scenario



- Similar to Exhibits on current RN and PN exams
- Presents information about client and setting
- May use single tab (e.g., "Nurses' Notes) or multiple tabs

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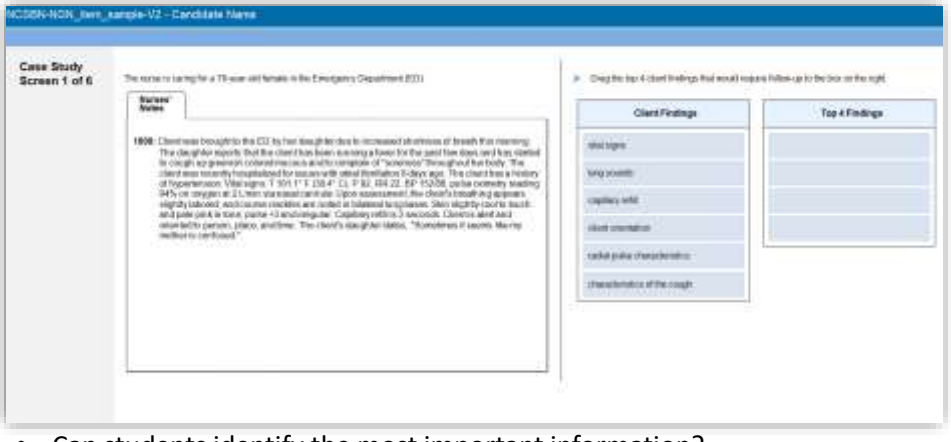
NGN Case Study – Sample item 1 of 6



- Can students identify the most important information?
- Referred to as "Recognize Cues" in NCSBN Clinical Judgment Model

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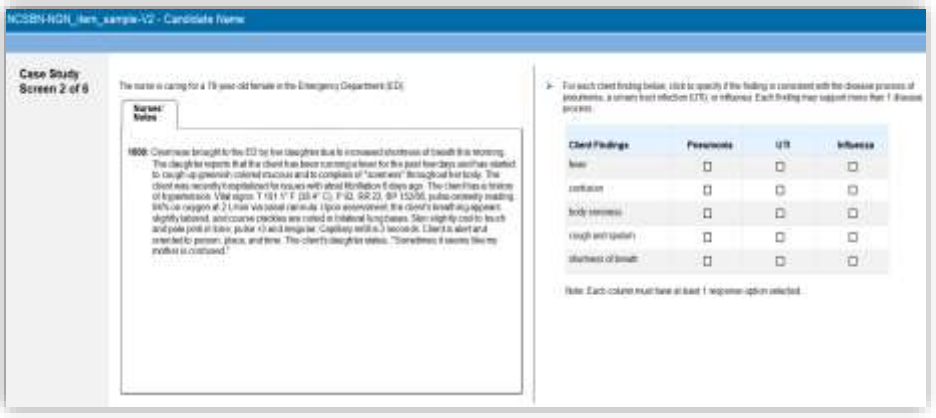
NGN Case Study – Sample item 2 of 6



- Can students interpret the most important information?
- Referred to as "Analyze Cues" in NCSBN Clinical Judgment Model

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NGN Case Study – Sample item 3 of 6

- Can students synthesize important information to arrive at client needs?
- Referred to as "Prioritize Hypotheses" in NCSBN Clinical Judgment Model

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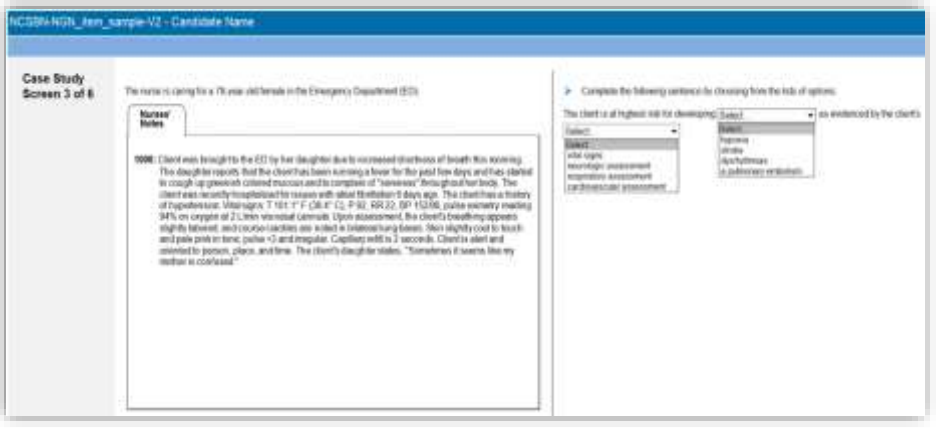
NGN Case Study – Sample item 3 of 6 (continued)



- Can students synthesize important information to arrive at client needs?
- Referred to as "Prioritize Hypotheses" in NCSBN Clinical Judgment Model

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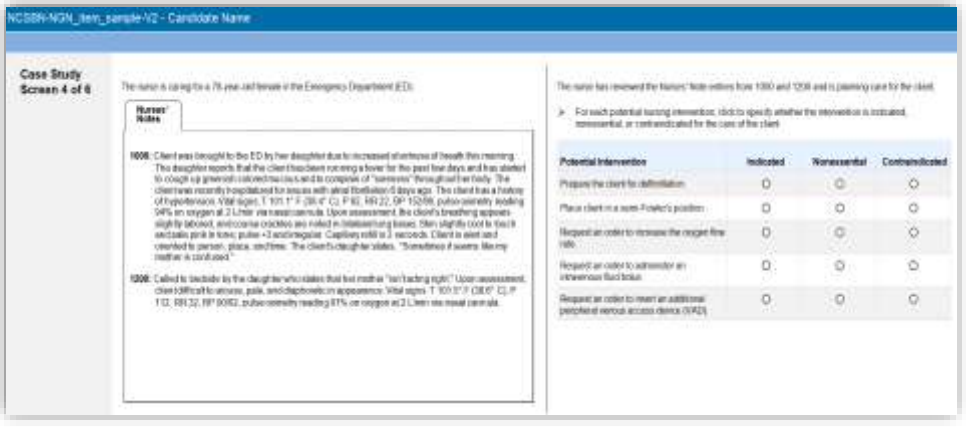
NGN Case Study – Sample item 4 of 6



- Can students develop possible care options aligned with client needs?
- Referred to as "Generate Solutions" in NCSBN Clinical Judgment Model

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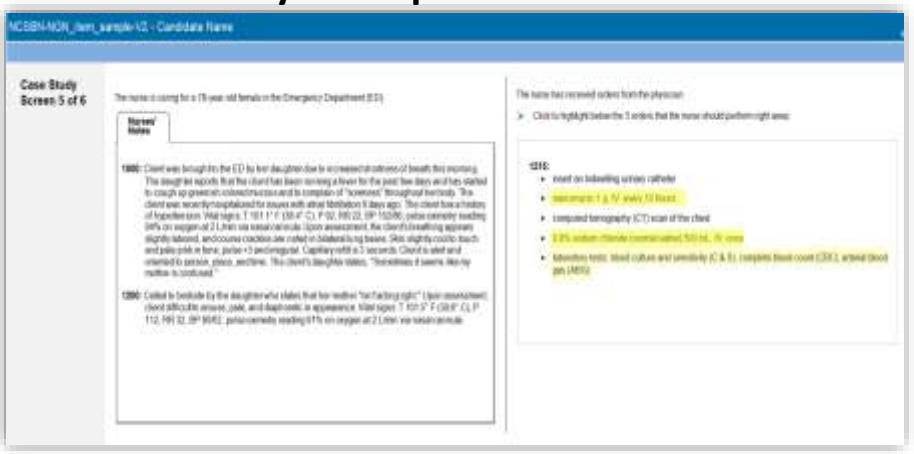
NGN Case Study – Sample item 5 of 6



- Can students identify and perform the appropriate actions?
- Referred to as “Take Actions” in NCSBN Clinical Judgment Model

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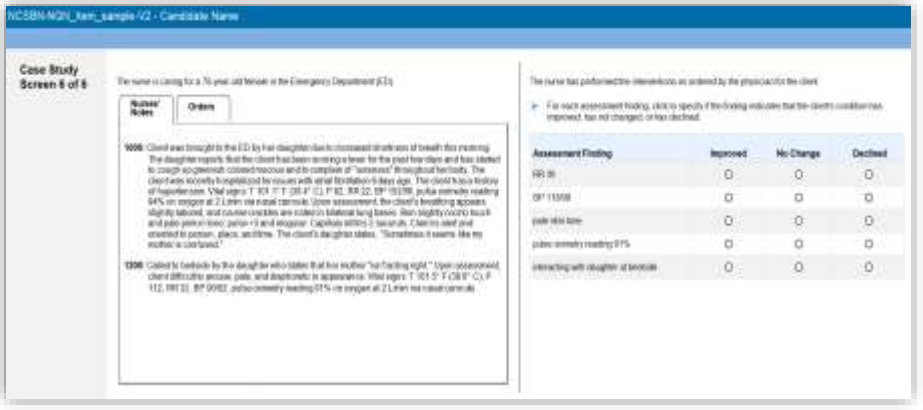
NGN Case Study – Sample item 6 of 6



- Can students determine the effectiveness of interventions?
- Referred to as “Evaluate Outcomes” in NCSBN Clinical Judgment Model

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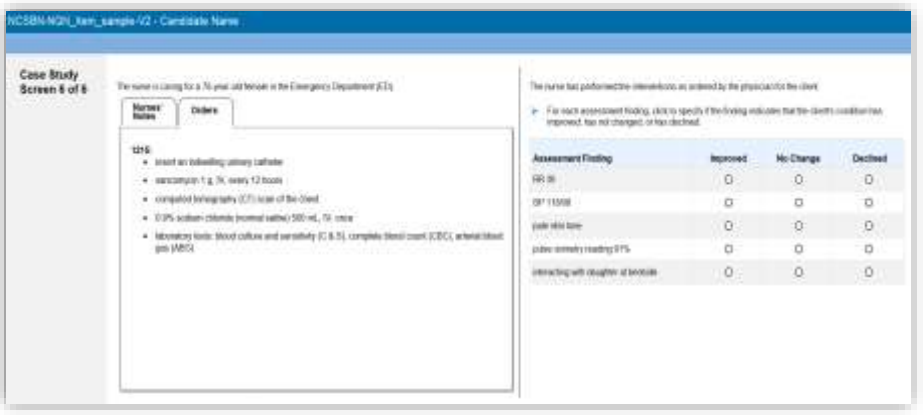
NGN Case Study – Sample item 6 of 6 (continued)



- Can students determine the effectiveness of interventions?
- Referred to as "Evaluate Outcomes" in NCSBN Clinical Judgment Model

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NGN Case Study – Summary

The NGN Case Study presents students with a real-world nursing situation and measures their ability to identify, analyze, and synthesize the most relevant information into appropriate nursing interventions that are prioritized based on client needs, selected and performed correctly, and evaluated for effectiveness.

- Case studies will always include six items
- The order of the items will always match the order of this sample set
- Some case studies will include multiple tabs of information in the stimulus

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Clinical Judgment Measurement Model

The NGN case studies and associated items reflect nursing situations similar to what students are already seeing in classrooms and will see in clinical practice. However, it is not enough for the NGN to appear to measure important material. NCSBN has worked for more than a decade to ensure the NGN provides an evidence-based means of measuring clinical judgment in nursing.

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More than a decade of research…

- 2009 – NCSBN begins research on how to measure clinical judgment in nursing
- 2012 – Comprehensive literature review completed
- 2014 – Strategic job task analysis
- 2015 – Draft assessment framework developed
- 2016 – Usability testing of new item types
- 2017 – Optional research section added to NCLEX-RN
- Today – Continuing research on model, item types, and scoring

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Item Type Data Collection

- 884 NGN Items and 95 Forms have been deployed in ITDC from July 2017 to December 2018
- 357,113 Candidates took NCLEX-RN exams and 304,626 Candidates (85%) participated in ITDC from July 2017 to December 2018
- NGN participants spent about one minute on NGN Item

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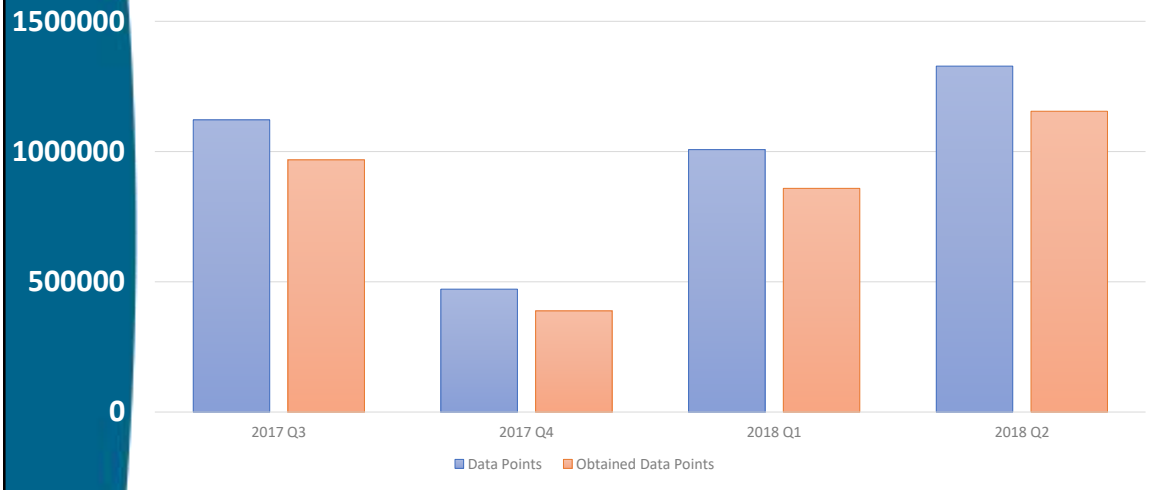
NGN ITDC Data Points



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NGN Information on NCSBN Website

NGN Resources

Quarterly Newsletter

https://www.ncsbn.org/next-generation-nclex.htm

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Next Generation NCLEX Project:
https://www.ncsbn.org/next-generation-nclex.htm
NGN Presentations & Talks:
https://www.ncsbn.org/ngn-talks.htm
Next Generation NCLEX FAQs:
https://www.ncsbn.org/11449.htm
Measuring the Right Things, In Focus article:
https://www.ncsbn.org/12021.htm

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NCSBN Clinical Judgment Model Research and Task Model Publications

- Dickison, P., Luo, X., Kim, D., Woo, A., Muntean, W., & Bergstrom, B. (2016). Assessing higher-order cognitive constructs by using an information-processing framework. *Journal of Applied Testing Technology*, *17*(1), 1-19. Retrieved from www.jattjournal.com/index.php/atp/article/view/89187/67797.
- Dickison, P., Haerling, K., and Lasater, K. (2019). Integrating the National Council of State Boards of Nursing clinical judgement model into nursing. *Journal of Nursing Education,* 58(2), 72-78. Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.3928/01484834-20190122-03.
- Muntean, W. (2012). *Nursing clinical decision-making: A literature review.* Retrieved at https://www.ncsbn.org/Nursing_Clinical_Decision_Making_A_Literature_Review.htm.
- Betts, J., Muntean, W., Kim, D., Jorion, N., Dickison, P. (2019). Building a Method for Writing Clinical Judgment Items for Entry-Level Nursing Exams. *Journal of Applied Testing Technology, Vol 20(S2), 21-36, 2019.*

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Thank you!

For additional questions please email:
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