

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) provides education, service and research through collaborative leadership to promote evidence-based regulatory excellence for patient safety and public protection.

The purpose of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) is to provide an organization through which boards of nursing act and counsel together on matters of common interest and concern affecting the public health, safety and welfare, including the development of licensing examinations in nursing.

The major functions of NCSBN include developing the NCLEX-RN® and NCLEX-PN® examinations, performing policy analysis and promoting uniformity in relationship to the regulation of nursing practice, disseminating data related to NCSBN's purpose, and serving as a forum for information exchange for NCSBN members.

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Entry into the practice of nursing is regulated by the licensing authorities within each of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN®) member board jurisdictions (state, commonwealth and territorial boards of nursing). To ensure public protection, each jurisdiction requires candidates for licensure to meet set requirements that include passing an examination that measures the competencies needed to perform safely and effectively as

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; promoting comfort; protecting, promoting, and restoring health; and promoting dignity in dying.

The practical/vocational nurse uses “specialized knowledge and skills which meet the health needs of people in a variety of settings under the direction of qualified health professionals” (NFLPN, 2003). The practical/vocational nurse uses a clinical problem-solving process (the nursing process) to collect and organize relevant health care data, assist in the identification of the health needs/problems throughout the client’s life span and contribute to the interdisciplinary team in a variety of settings. The entry-level practical/vocational nurse demonstrates the essential competencies needed to care for clients with commonly occurring health problems that have predictable outcomes. “Professional behaviors, within the scope of nursing practice for a practical/vocational nurse, are characterized by adherence to standards of care, accountability of one’s own actions and behaviors, and use of legal and ethical principles in nursing practice” (NAPNES, 2007).

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 & Krathwohl, 2001). The practice of practical/vocational nursing requires application of knowledge, skills and abilities; therefore, the majority of items are written at the application or higher levels of cognitive ability.

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

Clinical Problem-solving Process (Nursing Process) – a scientific approach to client care that includes data collection, planning, implementation and evaluation.

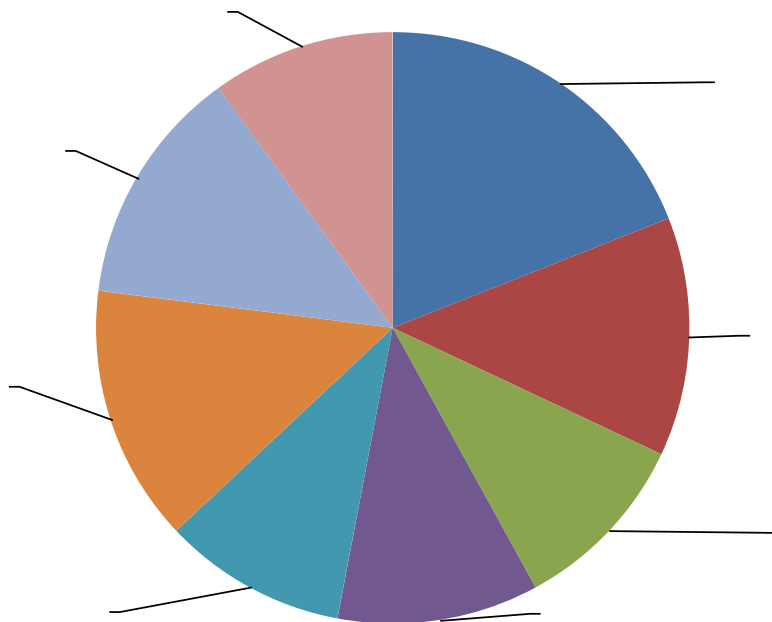
Caring – interaction of the practical/vocational nurse and client in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust. In this collaborative environment, the practical/vocational nurse provides support and compassion to help achieve desired therapeutic outcomes.

Communication and Documentation – verbal and nonverbal interactions between the practical/vocational nurse and the client, as well as other members of the health care team. Events and activities associated with client care are validated in written and/or electronic records that reflect standards of practice and accountability in the provision of care.

Teaching and Learning – facilitation of the acquisition of knowledge, skills and attitudes to assist in promoting a change in behavior.

The percentage of test items assigned to each Client Needs category and subcategory in the NCLEX-PN Test Plan is based on the results of the study *Rosenfeld et al., 2012 LPN/VN Practice Analysis*, *NCLEX-PN Examination Practice* (NCSBN, 2013), and expert judgment provided by members of the NCLEX® Examination Committee.

Client Needs Category	Percentage of Test Items
Coordinated Care	16-22%
Safety and Infection Control	10-16%
Basic Care and Comfort	7-13%
Pharmacological Therapies	8-14%
Reduction of Risk Potential	7-13%
Physiological Adaptation	11-17%
	10-16%
	7-13%



Safety and Infection Control – The practical/vocational nurse contributes to the protection of 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
- Least Restrictive Restraints and Safety Devices
- Safe Use of Equipment
- Security Plan
- Standard Precautions/Transmission-Based Precautions/Surgical Asepsis

Developmental Stages and Growth and Development

The practical/vocational nurse provides nursing care for clients that incorporate the knowledge of expected stages of growth and development, and prevention and/or early detection of health problems.

Related content includes, but is not limited to:

- Aging Process
- Ante/Intra/Postpartum and Newborn Care
- Data Collection Techniques
- Developmental Stages and Transitions
- Health Promotion/Disease Prevention
- High Risk Behaviors
- Lifestyle Choices

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The practical/vocational nurse assists in the promotion of physical health and well-being by providing care and comfort, reducing risk potential for clients and assisting them with the management of health alterations.

Basic Care and Comfort – The practical/vocational nurse provides comfort to clients and assistance in the performance of activities of daily living.

Related content includes, but is not limited to:

Assistive Devices	Nutrition and Oral Hydration
Elimination	Personal Hygiene
Mobility/Immobility	Rest and Sleep
Nonpharmacological Comfort Interventions	

Pharmacological Therapies – The practical/vocational nurse provides care related to the administration of medications and monitors clients who are receiving parenteral therapies.

Related content includes, but is not limited to:

Adverse Effects/Contraindications/Side Effects/Interactions	Expected Actions/Outcomes
Dosage Calculations	Medication Administration
	Pharmacological Pain Management

Reduction of Risk Potential – The practical/vocational nurse reduces the potential for clients to develop complications or health problems related to treatments, procedures or existing conditions.

Related content includes, but is not limited to:

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

Physiological Adaptation – The practical/vocational nurse participates in 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	Medical Emergencies
Basic Pathophysiology	Unexpected Response to Therapies
Fluid and Electrolyte Imbalances	

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