

How Many Nurses Does It evaluations, and institutional policies workshop along with other data will and procedures. Following the be used by the NCSBN Board of

NCLEX-PN® Exam ?

Anne Wendt, PhD, RN

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) is responsible for developing the NCLEX examinations. In order to protect the public, Boards of Nursing use the NCLEX® to help ensure that the entry-level practitioner is safe to practice nursing. Therefore, it is essential that the licensure examination is current and reflects the competencies required for the newly licensed nurse to practice. Developing and updating the NCLEX-PN examination requires many nurses as shown in Figure 1 NCLEX-PN Examination Process. Using the 2006

a sample of 6,000 entry-level LPN/VNs was drawn at random and the nurses were surveyed regarding the frequency and priority of activities they performed. There were 1,516 nurses who responded to the survey and 1,045 of the submitted surveys were used in the 2006 practice analysis results.⁽²⁾

The second major step was an evaluation by NCSBN's Examination Committee of the 2003 *NCLEX-PN Test Plan* using the results from the 2006 LPN/VN practice analysis. The Examination Committee consists of ten nurses with many years of nursing and regulatory experience. Based on the evidence from the practice analysis, the

NCLEX-PN passing standard. NCSBN's Board of Directors consists of nine nurses who have extensive nursing and regulatory experience.

Steps in Pretest Items Development

These next steps used in developing NCLEX-PN test questions (items) occur every year throughout the year and the number of nurses varies based on item pool needs. In the calendar year 2006, 59 item writers who were, for the most part, nursing educators familiar with the knowledge, skills and abilities needed by the entry-level nurse served on item writing panels. These nurses were selected from a large database of nurses who applied and were approved by their boards of

EDUCATION

This group includes at least one nurse and several nurse consultants. The panelists review items in order to ensure that the item does not contain unnecessary content that might be

Steps in Maintenance of the Items

While it would seem that the role of nurses in the exam development process should end here, that is not the case as can be seen in Figure 1. The

the items are current and accurate is repeated whenever there are changes in practice.) Additionally, all items are reviewed more formally by groups of Master Pool Reviewers (N=6 for 2006).

and inflammatory.

~~Once all of these independent and~~

items must be maintained over time.

When practice changes occur such as

when CPR guidelines changed

who are recommended to serve on the

panel because of their expertise and

previous experience as EN item

process. All of these steps and more are used to ensure that **NCLEX Updates For Nursing Educators**