Next Generation NCLEX Special Research Section Questions and Answers

1. What is the special research section for?
The special research section is intended to collect data on new item types that could expand or enhance the measurement of entry-level nursing competence including clinical judgment.

2. What are the new item types that students can expect to see?
NCSBN is researching several item types, including: extended multiple response items, extended drag and drop items, CLOZE items, enhanced hot-spot items, dynamic exhibit items, and constructed response items.

3. What kind of information will be collected in the special research section?
The special research section will collect data on developing scoring rules, provide evidence of item characteristics and determine how much time candidates spend on each item.

4. How long will this research be conducted?
The first phase of the special research section is slated to occur between July and September 2017. Further special research sections may be included in future testing quarters depending on research needs.

5. What kind of candidates will be selected for the special research section?
Only NCLEX-RN candidates may be selected to participate in the special research section. A number of factors determine whether or not a candidate will be given the special research section (e.g., the time remaining in their NCLEX appointment).

6. Will my performance on the special research section effect my NCLEX result?
No. Data derived from the research section will not be used to determine the candidate’s result.

7. Will more information about the special research section come out soon?
Yes. Language informing candidates about the special research section is included in the regular correspondence to NCLEX candidates, on the NCSBN and Pearson VUE websites and provided via the NCSBN social media sites.

8. How long will the special research section take?
The special research section should take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

9. Is there a place that I can make comments regarding the new item type?
Please contact nclexinfo@ncsbn.org or 1.866.293.9600 for comments regarding the special research section.

10. How will the items be scored (e.g., partial credit, full credit, etc.)?
The special research section items will not be scored. One of the purposes of the special research section is to gather the data needed to determine scoring methods for the new item types.
11. What resources/who created the new type of questions?

   Expert nurses and psychometricians at NCSBN and Pearson VUE created the new item types based on the steps of the clinical judgement model. The content was validated with approved nursing references and by NCSBN subject matter expert reviewers.

12. What research has been conducted to validate the new item types?

   Focus group studies, usability studies, and cognitive labs studies are either well underway or planned for future portions of this research project. The data from the special research section will be another step to collect important empirical evidence to validate new item types.

13. How can nursing schools incorporate the clinical judgement model into their curriculum?

   The communication plan for this research project will include early communication between NCSBN and the nursing education community to ensure effective integration of the clinical judgement model into nursing education programs.

14. When will the new item types go into effect on the exam?

   The new item types are still in the research and development phase and the data gathered from the special research section will inform which item types are able to go through to further research steps.

15. Is the NCLEX going to change?

   The new item types are still in the research and development phase, the results of which will inform whether the items are appropriate for the measurement of entry-level nursing competence. More research data is required before it can be determined whether or not the NCLEX will change.