

The NCSBN Board of Directors Voted to Raise the Passing Standard for the NCLEX-PN Examination

12/7/2007

The NCSBN Board of Directors voted to raise the passing standard for the NCLEX-PN examination at its meeting on Dec. 5-7, 2007.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHICAGO - The National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc. (NCSBN) voted at its Dec. 5-7, 2007, meeting to raise the passing standard for the NCLEX-PN examination (the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses). The new passing standard is -0.37 logits on the NCLEX-PN logistic scale, 0.05 logits higher than the previous standard of -0.42. The new passing standard will take effect on April 1, 2008, in conjunction with the 2008 NCLEX-PN Test Plan.

After consideration of all available information, the NCSBN Board of Directors determined that safe and effective entry-level LPN/VN practice requires a greater level of knowledge, skills, and abilities than was required in 2005, when NCSBN established the current standard. The passing standard was increased in response to changes in U.S. health care delivery and nursing practice that have resulted in entry-level LPN/VNs caring for clients with multiple, complex health problems.

The Board of Directors used various sources of information to guide its evaluation and discussion regarding the change in passing standard. As part of this process, NCSBN convened an expert panel of 10 nurses to perform a criterion-referenced standard setting procedure. The panel's findings supported the creation of a higher passing standard. NCSBN also considered the results of a national survey of nursing professionals including nursing educators, directors of nursing in acute care settings and administrators of long-term care facilities.

In accordance with a motion adopted by the 1989 NCSBN Delegate Assembly, the NCSBN Board of Directors evaluates the passing standard for the NCLEX-PN examination every three years to protect the public by ensuring minimal competence for entry-level LPN/VNs. NCSBN coordinates the passing standard analysis with the three-year cycle of test plan evaluation. This three-year cycle was developed to keep the test plan and passing standard current. A PDF of the 2008 NCLEX-PN Test Plan is available free of charge from the NCSBN Web site <https://www.ncsbn.org/1287.htm>.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc. (NCSBN) is a not-for-profit organization whose membership comprises the boards of nursing in the 50 states, the District of Columbia and four U.S. territories.

Mission: The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), composed of Member Boards, provides leadership to advance regulatory excellence for public protection.

Media inquiries may be directed to the contact listed above. Technical inquiries about the NCLEX examination may be directed to the NCLEX information line at 1.866.293.9600 or nclexinfo@ncsbn.org.