

Next Generation **NCLEX** **NEWS**

Next Generation NCLEX®: Overview of the 2021 RN Practice Analysis



TABLE 2. Two Highest and Lowest Activity Statements by Average Total Group Importance		Average Importance		
		(Total Group)		
Activity Number	ACTIVITY	N	Avg.	Std. Err.
HIGHEST IMPORTANCE RATING				
25	Apply principles of infection prevention (e.g., hand hygiene, aseptic technique, isolation, sterile technique, universal/standard enhanced barrier precautions)	177	4.88	0.03
93	Review pertinent data prior to medication administration (e.g., contraindications, lab results, allergies, potential interactions)	186	4.85	0.03
LOWEST IMPORTANCE RATING				
87	Recognize complementary therapies and identify potential benefits and contraindications (e.g., aromatherapy, acupuncture, supplements)	177	3.20	0.08
137	Implement and monitor phototherapy	142	2.94	0.12

TABLE 3. Two Highest and Lowest Activity Statements by Average Total Group Clinical Judgment		Average Clinical Judgment		
		(Total Group)		
Activity Number	ACTIVITY	N	Avg.	Std. Err.
HIGHEST CLINICAL JUDGMENT RELEVANCY				
145	Recognize signs and symptoms of client complications and intervene	167	3.93	0.02
88	Evaluate appropriateness and accuracy of medication order for client	147	3.91	0.03
LOWEST CLINICAL JUDGMENT RELEVANCY				
75	Perform post-mortem care	169	2.54	0.07
137	Implement and monitor phototherapy	118	2.52	0.11



Noteworthy was the type of orientation most entry-level nurses received as well as the client population. Entry-level nurses were more likely to receive orientation with an assigned preceptor and the percentage of newly licensed nurses attending a formal internship or transition to practice program has increased (see Table 4).

Adult (over age 85)

Adult (ages 65–85)

Adult (ages 18–64)

Pediatric* (ages 0

*In 2017, Pediatric included separate categories: newborns (less than 1 month), infant/toddler (1 month–2 years), preschool (3–5 years), school age (6–12 years), and adolescent (13–17 years). In 2021, Pediatric had one category: ages 1–17. Responders could select all that apply.

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