

Reliability of the NCLEX[®] examinations

Although the Test Plan ensures that the content of nursing is sampled adequately, it is far from a perfect sampling of the nursing domain. No matter how one slices the domain of nursing, there is always going to be similar content across content categories. For example, several items may be about Radiation Therapy. These different questions may investigate side effects (D10), emotional support for the client (C6), teach about the procedure (D10), handling of radioactive materials (A2), on infinitum. In theory, someone could receive an examination which met all of the specifications outlined in the Test Plan and contain solely Radiation Therapy questions. Well, not exactly. That's because the NC conducts a procedure to ensure that this does not happen. This procedure is called a Face Validity review. During this process, real and simulated examinations are read by experienced test developers to ensure that the balance and juxtaposition of content is on face, representative of the domain of nursing.

Construct Validity:

“To the extent that a variable is abstract and latent rather than concrete and observable, it is called a “construct.” Such a variable is literally something that scientists “construct” and which does not exist as an observable dimension of behavior.” - Nunnally, pp 85.

If entry-level nursing competency was concrete and observable, then it would be easy to measure. However, entry-level nursing competency is latent and abstract. Therefore, the National Council has “constructed” the NCLEX theory, sometimes called a client that the 14sga4vw (Hotra4Ls and sim3 ent (

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after they have reviewed extensive information gathered systematically from several sources including a panel of nursing experts. Through this process, the passing standard maintains currency and validity.