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PREFACE

Welcome to *HESI Comprehensive Review for the NCLEX-PN® Examination* with online study exams by HESI.

Congratulations! This outstanding review manual with the companion Evolve site is designed to prepare nursing students for what is very likely the most important examination they will ever take, the NCLEX-PN Licensing Examination. As a graduate of a PN Nursing program, the student has the basic knowledge required to pass tests and perform safely and successfully in the clinical area. *HESI Comprehensive Review for the NCLEX-PN Examination* with companion Evolve site allows the nursing student to prepare for the NCLEX-PN licensure exam in a structured way.

- Organize basic nursing knowledge previously learned.
- Review content learned during basic nursing curriculum.
- Identify weaknesses in content knowledge, so study efforts can be focused appropriately.
- Develop test-taking skills so application of safe nursing practice from knowledge can be demonstrated.
- Reduce anxiety level by increasing ability to correctly answer NCLEX-type questions.
- Boost test-taking confidence by being well prepared and knowing what to expect.

Organization

Chapter 1, *Introduction to the NCLEX-PN® Examination*, gives an overview of the NCLEX-PN Licensing Exam history and test plan for the examination. A review of the nursing process (updated with the latest NANDA-approved nursing diagnoses), client needs, and prioritizing nursing care is also presented.

Chapter 2, *Leadership and Management*, reviews the legal aspects of nursing, leadership, and management, along with disaster nursing.

Chapter 3, *Advanced Clinical Concepts*, presents nursing assessment (data collection), analysis (nursing diagnosis), planning, and intervention at the practical nurse level. Respiratory failure, shock, disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC), resuscitation, fluid and

electrolyte balance, acid-base balance, ECG, perioperative care, HIV, pain, and death and grief are reviewed.

Chapters 4 through 8, *Medical-Surgical Nursing, Pediatric Nursing, Maternity Nursing, Psychiatric Nursing, and Gerontologic Nursing*, are presented in traditional clinical areas.

Each clinical area is divided into physiologic components, but essential knowledge about basic anatomy, medications, nutrition, communication, client and family education, acute and chronic care, leadership and management, and clinical decision-making are integrated throughout the different components.

Open-ended style questions appear at the end of each chapter, which encourage the student to think in depth about the content presented throughout the individual chapter. When a variety of learning mechanisms are used, students have the opportunity to comprehensively prepare for the NCLEX. These strategies include:

- Reading the review book.
- Discussing content with others.
- Answering open-ended questions.
- Practicing with study exams that simulate the licensure examination.

These learning experiences are all different ways that students should use to prepare for the NCLEX. The purpose of the open-ended questions appearing at the end of the chapter is not a focused practice session on managing NCLEX-style multiple-choice questions, but instead this learning approach allows for more in-depth thinking about the particular topics in the chapter. Practice with multiple-choice style questions alone cannot provide the depth of critical thinking and analysis possible with the short-answer-style questions at the end of the chapter. Additionally, the open-ended questions provide a summary experience that helps students focus on the main topics that were covered in the chapter. Teachers use open-ended-style questions to stimulate the critical-thinking process, and *HESI Comprehensive Review for the NCLEX-PN Examination* facilitates the critical-thinking process by posing the same type of questions the teacher might ask.

When students need to practice multiple-choice style questions, the Study Exams offer extensive

opportunities for practice and skill-building to improve their test-taking abilities. The Study Exams contain seven content-specific exams (Medical-Surgical Nursing, Pharmacology, Pediatrics, Fundamentals, Maternity, Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing, and Gerontology) and two comprehensive exams patterned after categories on the NCLEX. The Study Exams can be accessed as many times as necessary, and no questions are repeated. For instance, the Medical Surgical exam does not contain questions that are on the Pediatrics exam. The purpose of providing these exams is to allow practice and exposure to the critical-thinking-style questions that students will encounter on the NCLEX-PN. However, the Study Exams should not be used to predict performance on the NCLEX. Only the HESI Exit Exam—a secure, computerized exam that simulates the NCLEX test plan and has evidenced-based results from numerous research studies indicating a high level of accuracy in predicting NCLEX success—is offered as a true predictor of NCLEX performance. Students are allowed unlimited practice on each Study Exam so that they can have the opportunity to review all of the rationales for the questions.

Here is a plan for student to use with the companion Evolve site:

- Trial 1: Take the PN Practice Exam without studying for it to see your areas of strengths and weaknesses.
 - Trial 2: After going over the content that relates to the practice questions on a particular practice test (for instance, Pediatrics, Medical-Surgical, Maternity, etc.), review that section of the manual and take the test again to determine whether you have been able to improve your scores.
 - Trial 3: Purposely miss every question on the exam so that you can view rationales for every question.
 - Trial 4: Take the exam again under timed conditions at the pace that you would have to progress in order to complete the NCLEX in the time allowed (approximately 1 minute per question). Find out whether being placed under timing constraints affects your performance.
 - Trial 5: Put the exam away for a while, and continue review and remediation with other textbook resources, results of any secure exams that you are taking at your school, etc. Take the practice exams again following this study period to see whether your performance improves after in-depth study and following a few weeks' break from these questions.
- Trial 5 represents a good activity in preparation for the HESI Exit Exam presented in your final semester of the program, especially if you have not used the Evolve question site for several weeks. Repeated exposure to the questions, however, will make them less useful over time because students tend to memorize the answers. For this reason, these tests are useful only for practice and are not a prediction of NCLEX-PN success. The tendency to memorize the questions after viewing them multiple times falsely elevates the student's scores on the study exams.
- Additional assistance for students to study for the NCLEX-PN Licensing Examination can be obtained from a variety of products in the Elsevier family. Many nursing schools have also adopted the following resources:
- HESI Examinations—A comprehensive set of examinations designed to prepare nursing students for the NCLEX exam. They enable customized remediation from Mosby and Saunders textbooks that saves time for faculty and students. Each student is given an individualized report detailing exam results and is allowed to view questions and rationales for items that were answered incorrectly. The electronic remediation, a complimentary feature of the HESI specialty and exit exams, can be obtained on the subject matter in which the student did not answer a question correctly.
 - HESI-PN Practice Test—A test that provides an introduction to real-world client situations with critical thinking questions. These questions cover nursing care for clients with a wide range of physiologic and psychosocial alterations and a related coordination of client care, pharmacology, and nursing concepts.
 - HESI Complete PN Case Study Collection—Prepares students to manage complex patient conditions and make sound clinical judgments. These online case studies cover a broad range of physiologic and psychosocial alterations, in addition to related coordination of care, pharmacology, and therapeutic concepts.
 - HESI Live Review—A Live Review Course presented by an expert faculty member who has received training by the Manager of Review Courses for Elsevier Review and Testing. Students are presented with a workbook and practice NCLEX-style questions that are used during the course.
 - eBooks—Online versions of the all Mosby and Saunders textbooks used in the student's Nursing Curriculum. Search across titles, highlight, make notes, and more—all on your PC.
 - Elsevier Simulations—Using virtual clinical cases, standardized simulation scenarios, and electronic documentation software, Elsevier Simulations allow students to practice and apply skills in a controlled, monitored environment.
 - Evolve Courses—Created by experts using instructional design principles, this interactive content engages students with reading, animation, video, audio, interactive exercises, and assessments.

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