Consequences for Nursing Graduates of Failing the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX)

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Abstract

Little information is available regarding the consequences of new nursing graduates who fail the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). The purpose of this study was to understand how these graduates could successfully pass this examination in subsequent attempts. Guided by Fisher’s personal change model, the key research questions addressed the consequences of failing the NCLEX-RN exam and the actions the new graduate took after failing it. A phenomenological design was employed with a purposive sample of 17 new nursing graduates in the metropolitan area who had failed the NCLEX-RN. An inductive approach using a constant comparison, content analysis was used to analyze data. NVivo software was used to assist in identifying and clustering codes to form a thematic label. Emergent themes were extracted and then triangulated with those themes emerging from each respondent’s interview. Results of the study indicated that students who failed the NCLEX-RN exam were depressed, isolated, and financially strained as they continued to pay their student loans during their unemployment. The findings indicated that schools of nursing seldom offer support for graduates who do not pass the exam. This finding informed the development of an NCLEX-RN preparation course to aid students to pass the NCLEX-RN exam, either on their first attempt or after failing the exam. Positive social change may occur as nursing school program directors and faculty use the results of the study to modify curriculum and develop strategies to ensure higher NCLEX-RN success rates.

The National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN® exam) has one purpose: To determine if it’s safe for you to begin practice as an entry-level nurse. It is significantly different from any test that you took in nursing school. While nursing school exams are knowledge-based, the NCLEX-RN® tests application and analysis using the nursing knowledge you learned in school. You will be tested on how you can use critical thinking skills to make nursing judgments. NCLEX-RN® Test Format. Framework. The NCLEX-RN® exam is organized according to the framework, “Meeting Client Needs.” Th Walden University 2014. Abstract Consequences for Nursing Graduates of Failing the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), by Julius Atemafac. MBA/MS, Strayer University, 2010 AAS/BS, University of the District of Columbia, 2005. Doctoral Study Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Education. The consequences of failing the NCLEX-RN are dire and extensive for the student, both emotionally and financially. McCumpsey (2011) pointed out that the emotional impact of failing the NCLEX-RN is usually devastating to the candidate’s employment potential and financial situation. Therefore, students must perform well to avoid emotional and financial problems, according to Carr (2012).