

The ADPIE framework—Assessment, Diagnosis, Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation—is a systematic approach used in nursing practice and is integral to answering NCLEX questions effectively.

ADPIE Overview

Assessment: Collect patient data through observations, interviews, physical exams, and review of medical history. This step identifies the patient’s current health status and problems. On the NCLEX, questions may test your ability to recognize important assessment findings or prioritize data.

Nursing Diagnosis: Analyze assessment data to identify actual or potential patient problems. Nursing diagnoses are categorized using NANDA-I terminology (e.g., Risk for Infection, Acute Pain). The NCLEX often gives scenarios where you must identify the correct nursing diagnosis based on patient data.

Planning: Set measurable and achievable goals or desired outcomes for the patient. Planning involves selecting appropriate nursing interventions to address identified problems. On the NCLEX, planning questions may ask which interventions best meet patient needs or achieve expected outcomes.

Implementation: Carry out the nursing interventions outlined in the plan. Implementation can include administering medications, patient education, or collaborating with other healthcare professionals. NCLEX questions may present interventions and ask which is most appropriate or safe.

Evaluation: Assess the effectiveness of nursing interventions and determine if patient goals are met. If goals are not achieved, revise the care plan and document changes. On the NCLEX, evaluation questions often test your ability to recognize outcomes and make appropriate adjustments.

Applying ADPIE to NCLEX Preparation

Prioritize using Maslow’s hierarchy and ABCs (Airway, Breathing, Circulation) when analyzing questions within the ADPIE framework.

Practice critical thinking: NCLEX often tests judgment on what to do first rather than memorizing routines.

Use scenario-based practice questions: Identify which part of ADPIE each question emphasizes and practice distinguishing between actual vs. potential nursing problems.

Documentation considerations: Many NCLEX questions involve proper documentation, which relates to the evaluation phase.

In summary, mastering ADPIE helps structure your thought process on the NCLEX, ensures safe and effective patient care decisions, and improves your ability to answer scenario-based questions confidently.