

NMNEC Medication Calculation Testing Policy – 06.14.2019

EXPLANATION



Background

A request was sent to the NMNEC Curriculum Committee to consider allowing some flexibility in the NMNEC Medication Calculation Testing Guidelines related to students who do not pass medication calculation testing in Levels 1 and 2 and academic progression. In reviewing the guidelines, it was identified that academic progression is not explicitly addressed and that the statement that students must pass with a score of 90% before passing medications in clinical has been interpreted by nursing programs as a foundation for course failure which affects academic progression. A concern was identified that a guidelines document that did not require voting approval by the NMNEC programs is being used as the basis for nursing program policies related to academic progression.

NMNEC Leadership Council recommended splitting the current NMNEC Medication Calculation Testing Guidelines into a policy that provides clarity about the minimum requirements for medication calculation testing in the NMNEC curriculum and into guidelines that provide clarity on content expectations for the medication calculation tests.

NMNEC policies require formal voting approval and hence this policy is now being sent out for review and vote for approval by the NMNEC Full Member programs.

Policy Content

In the proposed new policy, the introduction and purpose, and the policy statements 1-4 have been reworded. Statement 5 is a clarification statement in support of current practice that nursing programs determine their own policies about academic progression related to medication calculation testing.

Next Steps after Policy Vote

Much conversation has been generated about the pros and cons of medication calculation testing related to improving medication administration safety of nursing students and new graduates entering the workforce. Literature search has not provided evidence in support of, or against these types of policies. In exploration of this question on a national list serve, questions about the evidence base or efficacy for this practice have been raised across the country, with some programs moving from mandatory medication calculation testing to a medication administration safety validation or competency. The NMNEC Curriculum and curricular policies are based on best available evidence, therefore, the NMNEC Leadership Council has made a recommendation that the NMNEC Curriculum Committee develop a Task Force to explore whether a current requirement of medication calculation testing at each level is best practice for improving medication administration safety of NMNEC nursing students.