



NCLEX-RN® QUESTION WALKTHROUGHS: TREND



Trend items present a clinical scenario, including assessment data gathered over a period of time. Trend scenarios will typically include a stated or implied diagnosis. These items are designed to test your ability to recognize trends or changes in client status and make clinical decisions based on this data.

Clinical scenario format

Trend items present clinical data organized into tabs, similar to the information in an electronic health record. Tabs may be used to present the data for a single client scenario, or they may present multiple clients being cared for by a nurse, with each client's clinical data organized into a separate tab.

Single client scenario

Clinical history	Nurses' notes	Vital signs	Lab results
May include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Client demographics Past medical history Presenting problem Clinical setting in which the scenario is taking place 	A series of timed entries, may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nurse's observations Interventions performed New or evolving symptoms Client response to interventions 	A series of timed entries, may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vital signs Alertness/orientation Pain level Other assessments 	May include a single set of lab results or multiple timed entries

Multiple client scenario

Client 1	Client 2	Client 3	Client 4
Four clients are cared for by a nurse; each tab will present one client's scenario. Featured data may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Client demographics Past medical history Presenting problem Vital signs Assessment data Lab results, if applicable A series of timed nurses notes 			

Question format

The one question typically accompanying the trend item scenario can take the format of any Next-Generation NCLEX question type, including:

- Multiple-choice
- Multiple-response
- Highlight
- Matrix
- Cloze dropdown
- Rationale

Strategies for answering TREND questions

- Carefully and methodically review all data presented in clinical scenario tabs.
- Note changes, or trends, in the client's vital signs and assessments over time.
- Consider whether the client's status is improving or deteriorating.
- Note whether the client has a stated diagnosis. If not, is a diagnosis implied?
- Picture the clinical setting and scenario in your mind.
- Before moving on to the question, use your own words to describe the client's condition and any trends apparent in the clinical data.
- Next, orient yourself to the question type. Restate the question in your own words and make sure you understand what is being asked.
- Apply strategies you have practiced for answering the specific question type.
- Return to the clinical scenario data to confirm your answer.