NCLEX Prep Picker + Client Needs Tracker

From "Best NCLEX Prep (November 2026)" on the StudySim blog. Exam facts from NCSBN (2026 NCLEX-RN Test Plan and 2026 Candidate Bulletin, checked Nov 21, 2026). Prices change: confirm on each vendor page.

1. NCLEX-RN at a glance (2026 test plan, effective April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2029)

Item	What NCSBN says
Length	85 to 150 items, computer adaptive (CAT)
Time	5 hours, including all breaks
Minimum-length exam (85 items)	52 content-area items + 18 case study items (3 case studies of 6 items) + 15 unscored pretest items
Clinical judgment steps	Recognize cues, analyze cues, prioritize hypotheses, generate solutions, take action, evaluate outcomes

2. Client Needs tracker (rate your confidence 1 = low, 5 = high)

Category	Subcategory	Share of items	Confidence	Practice % (week 1)	Practice % (latest)
Safe and Effective Care Environment	Management of Care	15–21%	1 2 3 4 5		
Safe and Effective Care Environment	Safety and Infection Prevention and Control	10–16%	1 2 3 4 5		
Health Promotion and Maintenance	—	6–12%	1 2 3 4 5		
Psychosocial Integrity	—	6–12%	1 2 3 4 5		
Physiological Integrity	Basic Care and Comfort	6–12%	1 2 3 4 5		
Physiological Integrity	Pharmacological and Parenteral Therapies	13–19%	1 2 3 4 5		
Physiological Integrity	Reduction of Risk Potential	9–15%	1 2 3 4 5		
Physiological Integrity	Physiological Adaptation	11–17%	1 2 3 4 5		

3. Pick your prep (circle what fits)

If you mostly need...	Start with	Price from (checked Nov 21, 2026)
Practice questions from your own nursing notes (not a full course)	StudySim	Free sample test; Pro $1 for 3 days, then $20/mo
Large Q-bank with detailed rationales	UWorld	$139 for 30 days
Q-bank plus live review sessions	Archer Review	$189 for 3 months (one payment)
Test-taking strategy and live classes	Kaplan	From $80 with promo code (list $99)
Video lessons with a free trial	SimpleNursing	From $60/month; 5-day free trial
Phone drills on the go	Pocket Prep	35 free questions; $15.99/month
Official item-type preview	NCLEX.com sample pack	Free

4. Weekly practice log

Week of	Source	Questions done	% correct	CAT / readiness result	Weakest area

5. Before you register and test

- ☐ Applied to my nursing regulatory body and paid its licensing fee
- ☐ Registered with Pearson ($200 for U.S. licensure; $350 for registrations completed on or after Feb. 1, 2027)
- ☐ Name on my registration matches my ID exactly
- ☐ Scheduled my exam within the validity dates on my Authorization to Test (ATT)
- ☐ Know that canceling within 24 business hours of my appointment forfeits the fee
- ☐ Tried NCSBN's free sample pack, exam preview and candidate tutorial
- ☐ Retake rule noted: up to 8 attempts a year, at least 45 test-free days between attempts (check my jurisdiction)

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