NAPLEX Competency Statements (as of January 1, 2021)

The North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination® (NAPLEX®) Competency Statements provide a blueprint of the topics covered on the examination. They offer important information about the knowledge, judgment, and skills you are expected to demonstrate as an entry-level pharmacist. A strong understanding of the Competency Statements will aid in your preparation to take the examination.

Area 1. Obtain, Interpret, or Assess Data, Medical, or Patient Information (Approximately 18% of Test)

- 1.1 – From instruments, screening tools, laboratory, genomic or genetic information, or diagnostic findings
- 1.2 – From patients: treatment adherence, or medication-taking behavior; chief complaint, medication history, medical history, family history, social history, lifestyle habits, socioeconomic background
- 1.3 – From practitioners: (*see 1.2 for components*)
- 1.4 – From medical records: (*see 1.2 for components*)
- 1.5 – Signs or symptoms of medical conditions, healthy physiology, etiology of diseases, or pathophysiology
- 1.6 – Risk factors or maintenance of health and wellness
- 1.7 – Evidence-based literature or studies using primary, secondary, and tertiary references

Area 2. Identify Drug Characteristics (Approximately 14% of Test)

- 2.1 – Pharmacology, mechanism of action, or therapeutic class
- 2.2 – Commercial availability; prescription or non-prescription status; brand, generic, or biosimilar names; physical descriptions; or how supplied
- 2.3 – Boxed warnings or REMS
- 2.4 – Pregnancy or lactation

Area 3. Develop or Manage Treatment Plans (Approximately 35% of Test)

- 3.1 – Triage or medical referral
- 3.2 – Therapeutic goals or outcomes and clinical endpoints
- 3.3 – Medication reconciliation; indication or therapeutic uses; lack of indication; inappropriate indication; duplication of therapy; omissions
- 3.4 – Drug dosing or dosing adjustments; duration of therapy
- 3.5 – Drug route of administration, dosage forms, or delivery systems
- 3.6 – Drug contraindications, allergies, or precautions
- 3.7 – Adverse drug effects, toxicology, or overdose
- 3.8 – Drug interactions
- 3.9 – Therapeutic monitoring parameters, monitoring techniques, monitoring tools, or monitoring frequency
- 3.10 – Drug pharmacokinetics or pharmacodynamics
- 3.11 – Evidence-based practice
- 3.12 – Non-drug therapy: lifestyle, self-care, first-aid, complementary and alternative medicine, or medical equipment

Area 4. Perform Calculations (Approximately 14% of Test)

- 4.1 – Patient parameters or laboratory measures
- 4.2 – Quantities of drugs to be dispensed or administered
- 4.3 – Rates of administration
- 4.4 – Dose conversions
- 4.5 – Drug concentrations, ratio strengths, osmolarity, osmolality, or extent of ionization
- 4.6 – Quantities of drugs or ingredients to be compounded
- 4.7 – Nutritional needs and the content of nutrient sources
- 4.8 – Biostatistics, epidemiological, or pharmacoeconomic measures
- 4.9 – Pharmacokinetic parameters

Area 5. Perform Calculations (Approximately 14% of Test)

- 5.1 – Physicochemical properties of drug products affecting compatibility, stability, delivery, absorption, onset, duration, distribution, metabolism, or elimination
- 5.2 – Techniques, procedures, or equipment for hazardous or non-hazardous sterile products
- 5.3 – Techniques, procedures, or equipment for hazardous or non-hazardous non-sterile products
- 5.4 – Equipment or delivery systems
- 5.5 – Instructions or techniques for drug administration
- 5.6 – Packaging, storage, handling, or disposal

Area 6. Develop or Manage Practice or Medication-Use Systems to Ensure Safety & Quality (Approx. 7% of Test)

- 6.1 – Interdisciplinary practice, collaborative practice, or expanded practice responsibilities
- 6.2 – Continuity of care or transitions of care
- 6.3 – Disease prevention or screening programs; or stewardship
- 6.4 – Vulnerable populations, special populations, or risk prevention programs
- 6.5 – Pharmacy informatics