

# Frequently Asked Questions . . .

## about the Washington NNAAP™ Examination



### *Why was the new (NNAAP™) examination developed?*



Nursing assistant assessment needed to be improved to reflect the increased responsibilities that nursing assistants have today, and to incorporate current, generally accepted content and practice.



### *Who developed the NNAAP™?*



**Subject matter experts** representing the majority of Pearson VUE nursing assistant client states developed and approved every item on the NNAAP™ Written Examination and the Skills Evaluation. All the subject matter experts are registered nurses, and their professional responsibilities include training and/or supervision of nursing assistants in a variety of health care settings.

These same subject matter experts established acceptable pass/fail rates for the Written Examination and Skills Evaluation.



### *How does the previous version of the Skills Evaluation compare with the NNAAP™ Skills Evaluation?*



- **Candidates must now pass five (5) out of five (5) skills.** This is an increase from three (3) out of five (5) skills.
- The five (5) **skills are now scenario-based** and there is a logical progression and flow from one skill to another.
- In addition, candidates **may correct an error only once** per skill. Previously, they were permitted to make unlimited corrections.
- **A twenty-five (25) minute time limit has been established** for the completion of the Skills Evaluation in Washington.
- Candidates cannot simulate or describe how the skill(s) would be performed. **Every step within each skill has to be clearly demonstrated.**
- The majority of skills have "**critical elements.**" Critical elements are steps that require measurement or specifically address the safety of clients. If a candidate fails a critical element step, the entire skill is failed.



### ***Why are more candidates finding this test more difficult to pass?***



The acceptable passing level was raised so that the new test would reflect the increased responsibilities of nursing assistants.

The subject matter experts who developed the Skills Evaluation were in unanimous agreement that within the last nine years, the ***level of care given to clients has become more demanding***; therefore, the standard has to be more demanding. Rather than describing how skills would be performed, candidates must ***clearly demonstrate that they can correctly and safely perform every nursing assistant skill***.

***The passing standard must be met for the entire skill.*** In addition to making sure that “critical elements” are performed correctly, the candidate must demonstrate the entire skill at a level of minimal competence (as determined by the subject matter experts who set the passing standard for each skill.) Competence is not limited to performing the critical element step(s) correctly.

The pool of motivated and fully trained nursing assistants has been shrinking for the past several years. Nursing assistant trainers from across the country have reported that many nursing assistant ***candidates are challenged by nursing assistant training and assessment***, and may need tutoring or counseling to overcome the initial barrier of testing.



### ***What can nursing assistant training programs do to adequately prepare candidates for testing?***



- Make sure that each candidate has a copy of the candidate handbook. In addition to information concerning procedures and policies of the testing program, the handbook contains ***a complete listing of the skills*** with the steps for each skill.
- ***Practice***, practice, practice. Review all steps and skills. Pick five random skills at a time and have candidates perform them. Also use the NNAAP™ Practice Exam to prepare for the Written Examination. The NNAAP™ Practice Exam is located on the Pearson VUE website, as is the candidate handbook. The Pearson VUE web address is: <http://www.pearsonvue.com>. Look for Nurse Aide information, and then look for Washington.
- The Pearson VUE website will guide you to the materials that you may wish to review. Materials may be downloaded to your computer, duplicated, and distributed to candidates.