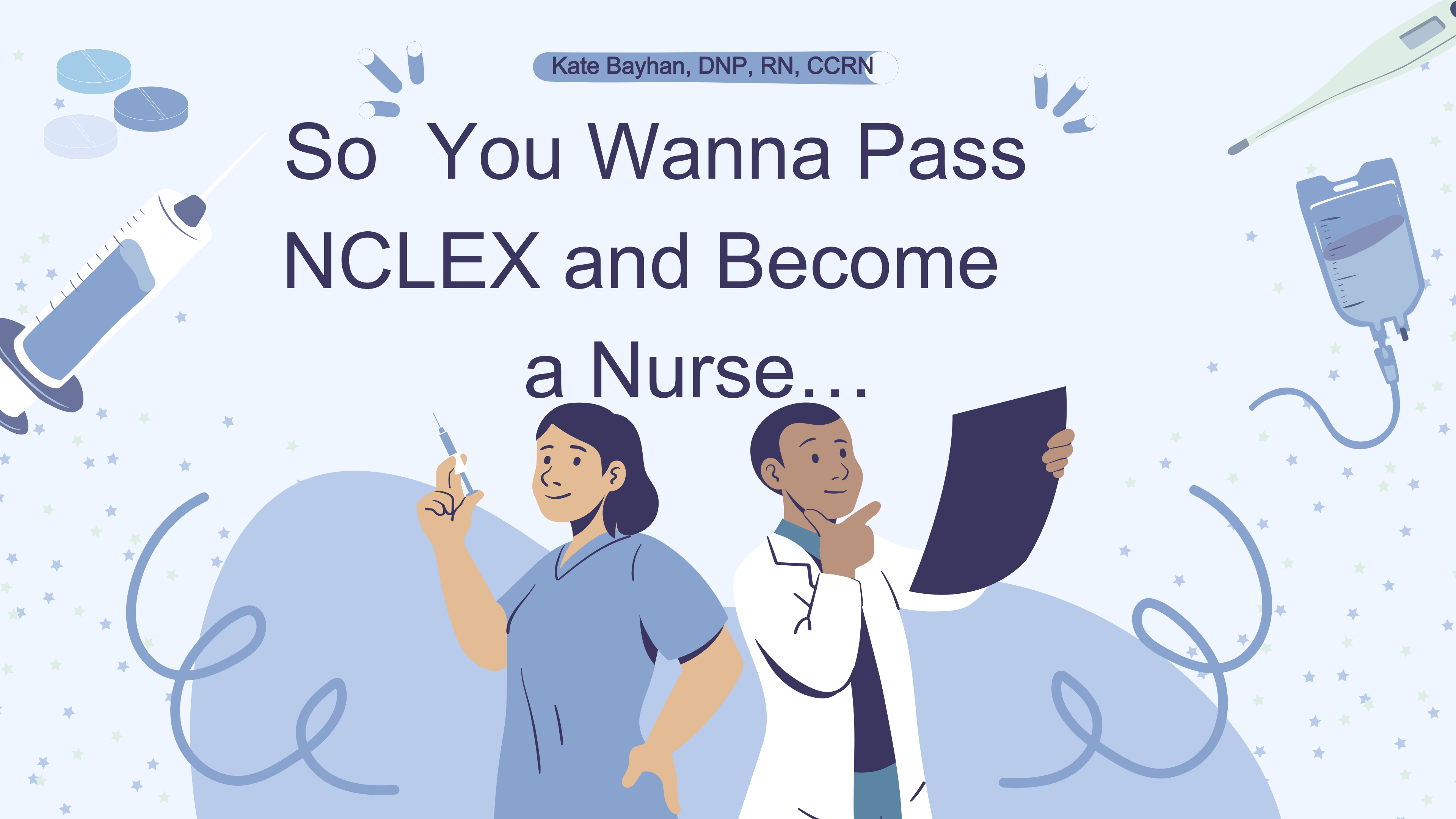


Kate Bayhan, DNP, RN, CCRN

# So You Wanna Pass NCLEX and Become a Nurse...



# Who Does What?

## California BRN

### State licensing board:

- Cost \$\$
- Validates with CSUF that you graduated
- Issues your ATT
- (authorization to test)

## Cal State Fullerton

### Educational institution :

- Grants your *degree* (BSN)
- Sends the BRN official transcripts

## Pearson VUE

### Proctoring site:

- Costs \$\$
- Proctors MANY exams
- Needs an ATT to schedule day/ time
- Ensures test integrity

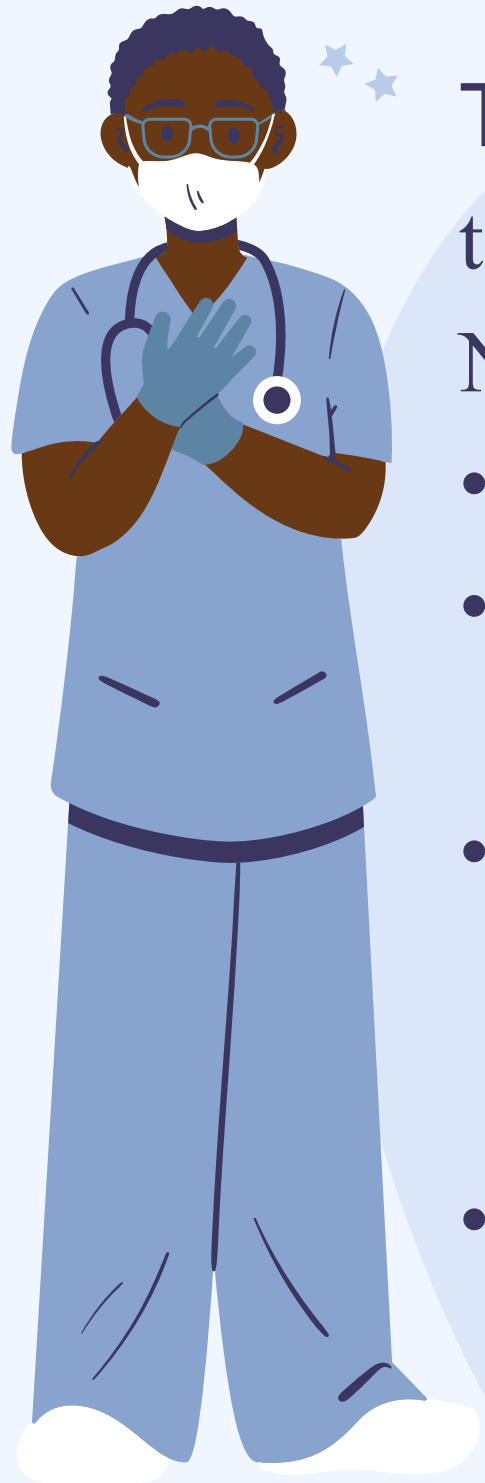


# The NCLEX Exam

## About the Exam:

This is an exam that tests knowledge, skills, and abilities essential to safe and effective practice of entry level nursing, per the NCSBN:

- Computerized adaptive testing
- Number of questions: 85 – 150
  - There is partial credit
- Length of time: 5 hours maximum
  - this time limit includes all breaks, introductory screen, stretching, etc
- Resources you will have in the test:
  - On-screen calculator, dry erase marker & board



# What To Bring

You Only Need Your Official Identification

Ensure your name matches identically **EVERYWHERE**  
(college transcripts, the BRN, Pearson VUE)

- You will have to store keys, wallets, etc in a locker outside of the formal testing room
- They will provide a lanyard with your locker key that must remain visible at all times
- You must store smart watches, cell phones, electronics, etc in a sealed plastic bag
- They will provide you with earplugs, if desired
- To enter and exit testing room, you will do a palm vein scan
- **On break** , you can access: coats/hats, medical devices, food/drink/snacks, lip balm, gum
- **Problem? RAISE YOUR HAND**



# Let's Talk About Breaks

## There are two scheduled breaks:

- Two hours from start
- 3.5 hours from start
- Instructions will appear on your computer screen
- Your time will keep ticking down

## While on a break:

- Use the restroom
- Drink water
- Stretch!
- Eat candy/snack
- Use inhaler/meds

## You can take a break whenever you want:

- Simply raise your hand
- Your time will continue to tick down

## What NOT to do:

- Jot down notes
- Use your cell phone
- Waste time
- Look at your notes

**\*\*Be sure to avoid even the appearance of cheating\*\***





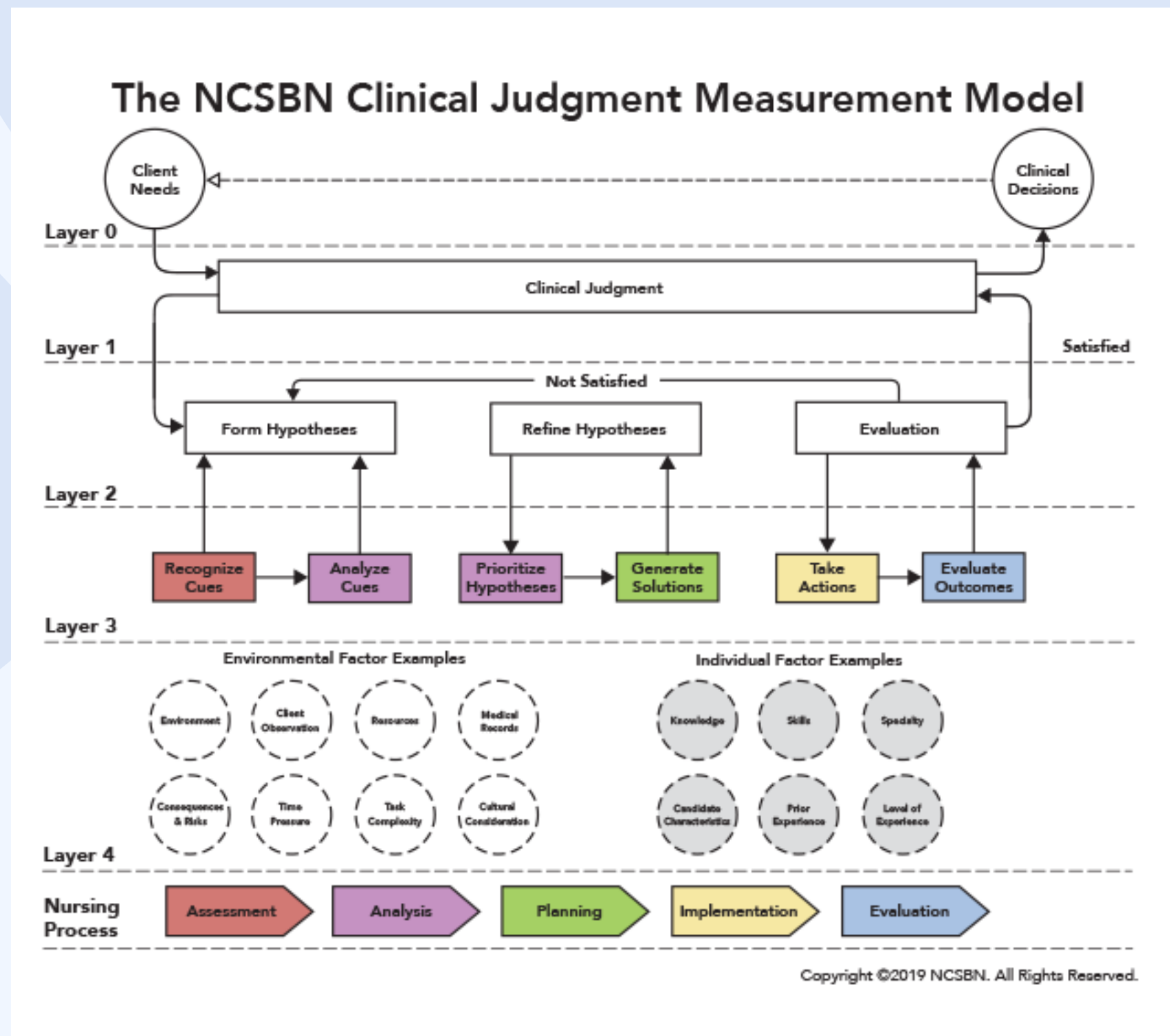
# And Now for the Questions



## Next Gen Nursing (NGN)

NCSBN developed a clinical judgment measurement model →

- Multiple-choice (80 - 90 %)
- Alternative-format questions (fill-in-the-blank, hot spot, drag & drop, bowtie, extended multiple response SATA)
- Questions based on four main topics:
  - Safe & effective care environment
  - Health promotion & maintenance
  - Psychosocial integrity
  - Physiological integrity



## Practice Question

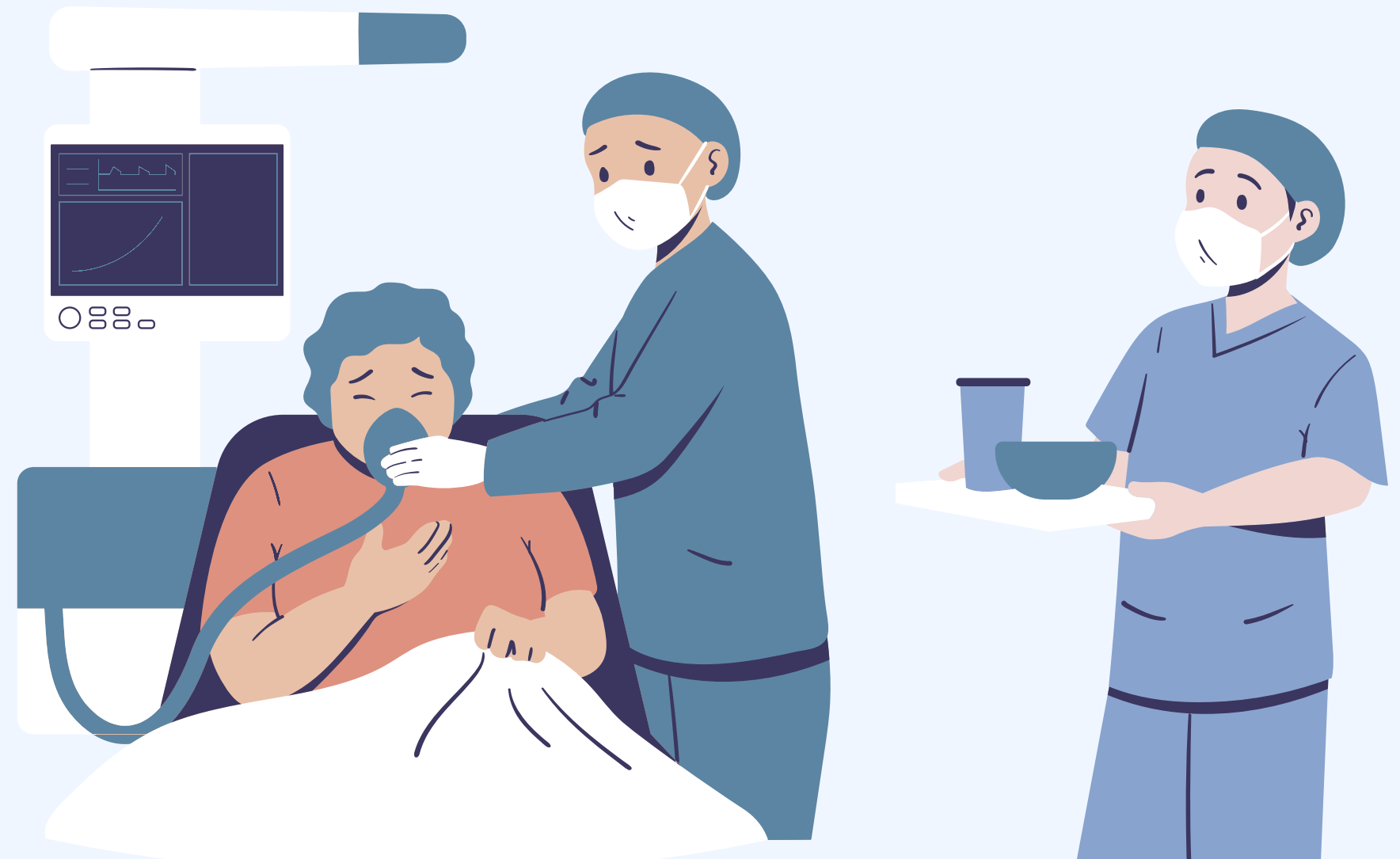
A woman is admitted to the hospital with a ruptured ectopic pregnancy. A laparotomy is scheduled. Preoperatively, which of the following goals is MOST important for the nurse to include on the pt's plan of care?

- a. Fluid replacement
- b. Pain relief
- c. Emotional support
- d. Respiratory therapy

## Answer & Rationale

What are your clues?  
Can you rule anything out?  
What about ADPIE?  
Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs...

# What Are the Clues?



# Let's Make a Plan

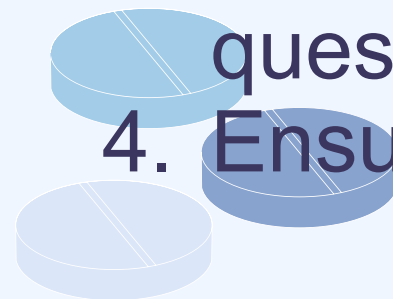
You Need Three Things for NCLEX

1. Understanding of content (pathophysiology)
2. Solid test-taking strategies
3. Stress & Time Management



Where Do You Need Help?

1. Your over-arching goal is to complete 3,000 questions before you sit for NCLEX.
2. Take NCLEX as soon as you're ready (the further you get from graduation, the harder this logic becomes)
3. Practice NCLEX style questions with focus on the rationale (small, groups of questions)
4. Ensure stamina & focus





# Things to Consider

## Your Unique Strengths & Weaknesses

Are you working? Do you have children? Do you have a quiet space to study? Consider your own strengths & weakness and create a plan that is catered to **you**.

## Time Management

The rationales are the most important aspect as you study. Focus on small groups of questions (20ish) with focus on rationales, once a month take a 150 - question exam

## Study Strategies

Ideally, study in a space that mimics the NCLEX – quiet & isolated. Keep a study journal, **TEACH** others the content

There are many NCLEX prep products out there:

**Uworld , Kaplan, Hurst Review, Archer...**



Questions?

