

***Trends in Certification:  
Perspectives from Test  
Development  
Companies***

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Three Big Trends,  
then a few others...

1. Examination Design
2. Recertification Models
3. Communications  
... a smattering others

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1. Examination Design

- Informed by traditional practice analysis (JA, RDS...)
- Validity evidence based on test content
- Knowledge (or expertise, i.e., 'expert knowledge or skill')
- Universal design and fairness (2014 *Standards*, AERA/APA/NCME)
- Bottom line:  
*Rethinking* examination design, not necessarily *changing*

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## 2. Recertification Models



- The common acronyms:
  - CE, CNE, CME, CH
- And some innovative acronyms:
  - HPAR, ILNA, IBT, CERP, PGP, PPL



*Start with what we want to be able to assert about the competencies of a nurse who continues to hold your credential -- the goal, not the tool...*

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## 3. Communications

- Reaching out to prospects, applicants, candidates and certificants
- Encouraging them to reach you
- Communications to the consumer:
  - Certification vs. certificate
  - Meaning of your credential

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## ...a smattering of others

Smattering (Merriam Webster):

1. superficial piecemeal knowledge,
2. a small scattered number

(you decide which...)

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#### 4. Score reporting (subscores)

- Meaningful? Added value?
  - Is a picture worth a thousand words? (or numbers?)
1. 70%
  2. Level 2
  3. 
  4. Meets standard
  5. A scaled score of 523
  6. 21 out of 30

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#### 5. Test administration alternatives

- Remote proctoring, testing on handhelds
- Risks and rewards

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#### 6. Security, cheating, forensics, oh my!

- Not really new, but facilitated by other factors

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## 7. Virtual Reality Testing

- What about a real alternative item type?
- Also not really new...
  - 360° murals in the 1860's, Morton Heilig (1957), Douglas Englebart (1960ish), Ivan Sutherland (1965), Jaron Lanier (1987)
  - Superficial piecemeal knowledge?
- Full circle: *Rethinking* examination design?

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