

Impact of Preceptor Education on Students' Critical Thinking Skills

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Learner Objectives

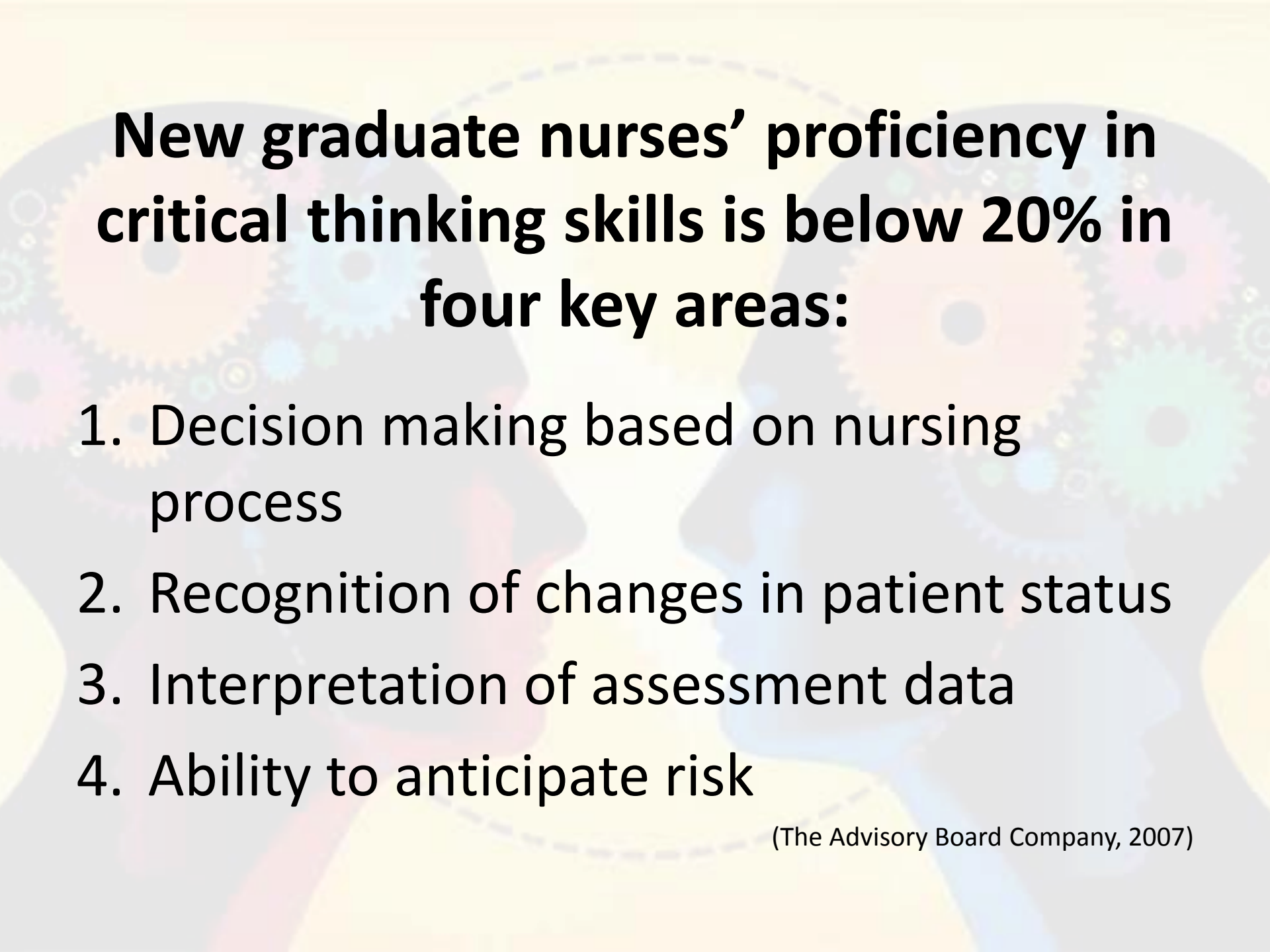
The learner will:

1. Identify specific areas of weakness in critical thinking competencies which can inform clinical educators when designing new graduate orientation and faculty when designing curriculum, course material, and evaluation methods, and
2. Recognize the positive impact of online education as an effective delivery method.

A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a white scrub top with a colorful floral pattern (pink, yellow, blue, and black flowers). She is looking down and slightly to the left with a focused expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Critical Thinking is...

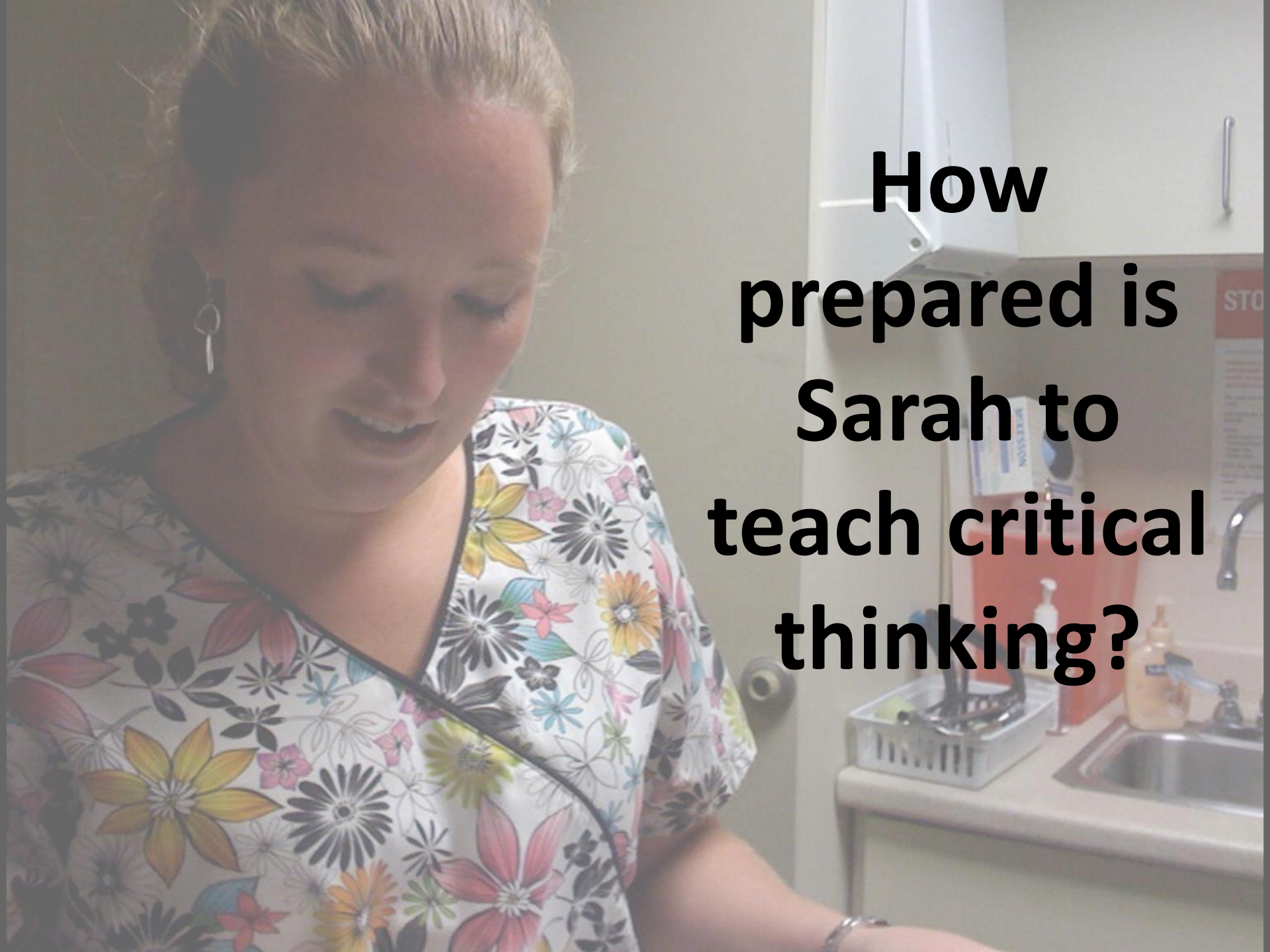
- ☒ Difficult for new nurses to learn
- ☒ Difficult for nurses to teach
- ☒ Essential to providing safe patient care



New graduate nurses' proficiency in critical thinking skills is below 20% in four key areas:

1. Decision making based on nursing process
2. Recognition of changes in patient status
3. Interpretation of assessment data
4. Ability to anticipate risk

(The Advisory Board Company, 2007)

A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing floral-patterned scrubs, is looking down. She is in a clinical or hospital setting, with a sink and medical supplies visible in the background. The text 'How prepared is Sarah to teach critical thinking?' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**How
prepared is
Sarah to
teach critical
thinking?**

To improve clinical education of critical thinking skills by examining whether online clinical preceptor education in teaching critical thinking skills affects the preceptors' ability to teach critical thinking.



Hypotheses

H1: Clinical preceptors who receive online education in teaching critical thinking skills will report higher levels of student proficiency in critical thinking skills than clinical preceptors who do not receive education in teaching critical thinking skills.

H2: Clinical preceptors who receive education in teaching critical thinking skills will report an increased ability to teach critical thinking.

Methods

- Posttest-only control-group design
- 8 RNs precepting senior BSN student
- Completed 202 hours direct care in hospital setting
- Control Group – no education
- Intervention Group – 30-45 min online education
- At conclusion of 202 hours, preceptors completed an online survey

Intervention

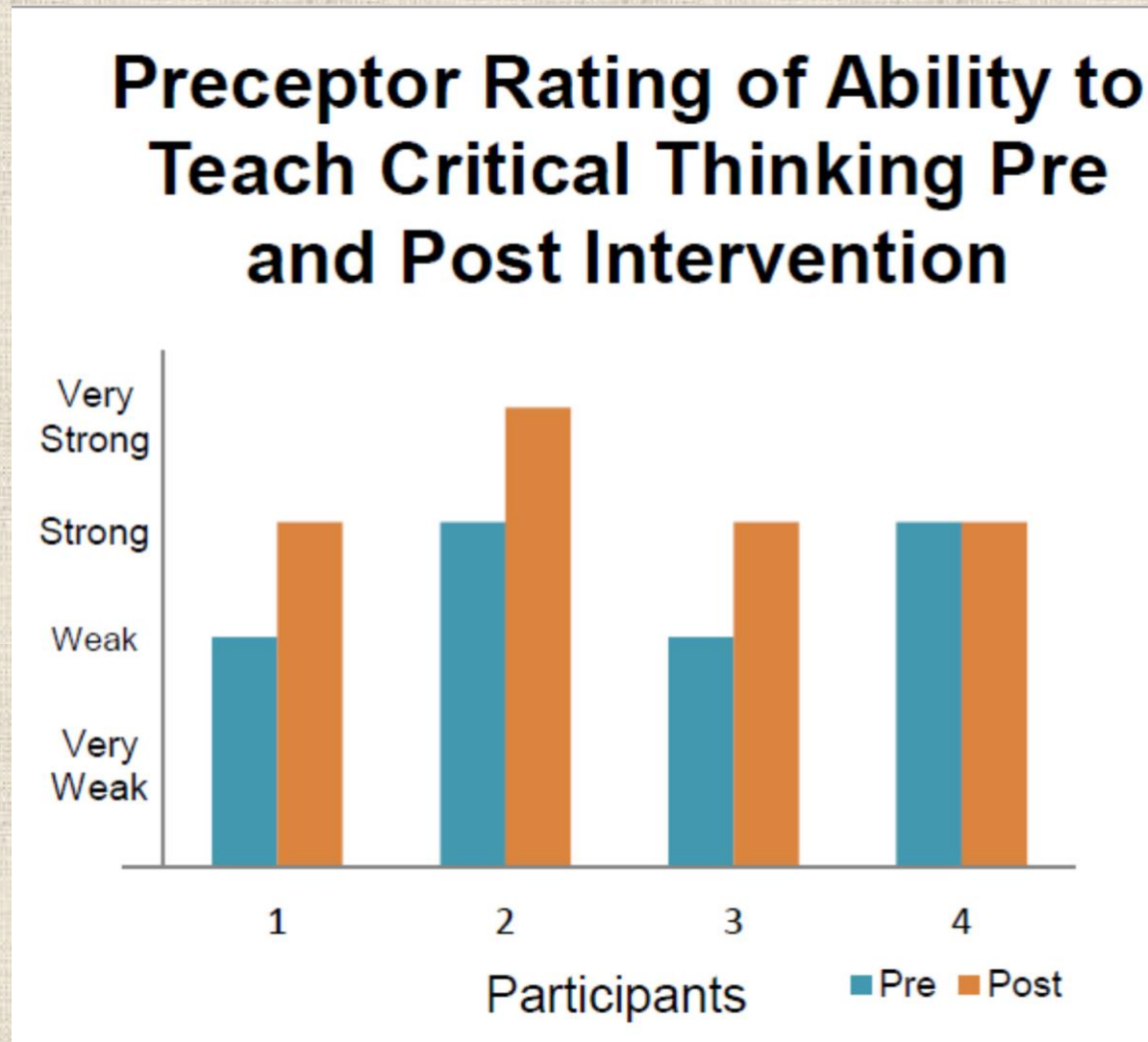
The preceptor will:

1. Recognize the factors that enhance and impede critical thinking in students,
2. Assess their personal openness to critical thinking,
3. Examine the role that the environment plays when students are learning to critically think,
4. Discover the Situated Clinical-Decision Making Framework, and
5. Actively participate in a case study utilizing situated coaching as a means to promote critical thinking of students.

H1: After education, preceptors will report higher student proficiency in critical thinking

Percent of Respondents Satisfied with BSN Critical Thinking Skills		
NPRT Critical Thinking Category	Current Study (n=8)	National Study (n=913)
When to ask for assistance	100	40
Interpretation of assessment data	87.5	22
Decision making based on the nursing process	75	24
Recognition of changes in patient status	75	23
Recognition of unsafe practices by self and others	75	31
Ability to anticipate risk	50	13

H2: After education, preceptors will report an increased ability to teach





**Think back to the six
critical thinking
competencies and
discuss potential
methods to help
Sarah teach critical
thinking while
precepting.**

A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a white scrub top with a colorful floral pattern, is looking down. A semi-transparent white box with black text is overlaid on the right side of the image. In the background, a kitchen sink and a white dish rack are visible.

**Discuss the
opportunities and
challenges of
preceptor
development.**

Reference

The Advisory Board Company, Nursing Executive Center. (2007). *The Nursing Executive Center New Graduate Nurse Performance Survey*. Washington, DC: Creative Services.