



Item Review: Sensitivity and Differential Item Functioning (DIF)

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Objectives

- By the end of this webinar, participants will be able to:
 - Identify the purpose of conducting Sensitivity panel review and Differential Item Functioning (DIF) panel review
 - Understand what it means for an item with DIF
 - Describe how NCSBN conducts Sensitivity panel review and DIF panel review

Item Development Process

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ITEM WRITING



Fairness in an Exam

- Should treat people equally and fairly regardless of the differences in:
 - Race, gender, ethnicity, politics, religion, age,

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- Panel of individuals from diverse backgrounds reviews newly written items from their perspective



Sensitivity Panel Review

Criteria for Sensitivity Review

Four criteria for each item during the review:

- Inappropriate Language
- Underlying Assumptions/Stereotyping

Inappropriate Language

- Words or phrases that are irrelevant to item content, are not familiar to all REx-PN candidates, or that classify clients by their diagnoses, age, or group affiliation.

Inappropriate Language - Example

The nurse is teaching a **diabetic 50-year-old male** client. Which of the following information should the nurse include?

1. "Wear properly fitting **flip-flops**."
2. "You may need to monitor your blood glucose level once a day."
3. "It is important that you recognize the signs and symptoms of hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia."
4. "Remember '**All things in moderation**' when eating carbohydrates."

Underlying Assumptions/Stereotyping

- General statements about a group that imply everyone in the group shares a certain characteristic.

Ethnocentrism

- Assumption that beliefs and standards from an individual's culture are universally true and accepted, and superior to those of others.

Ethnocentrism - Example

Inflammatory Language or Content

- Words or phrases that may be offensive or condescending to groups or individuals.

Inflammatory Language or Content - Example

The nurse enters a client's room and observes that the continuous cardiac monitor is displaying ventricular tachycardia and the client is reporting chest pain. Which of the following responses should the nurse make first?

1. "Don't worry sweetie. I will take care of you."
2. "Help! Somebody help me in here!"
3. "I will begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)."
4. "I should obtain a bedside electrocardiogram (ECG)."

Sensitivity Review Procedures



Differential Item Functioning (DIF) Panel Review

What Does Differential Item Functioning (DIF) mean?

- Each REx-PN[®] item should measure only the knowledge, ability or skills in nursing
- DIF means that an item behaves differently for

DIF Terms

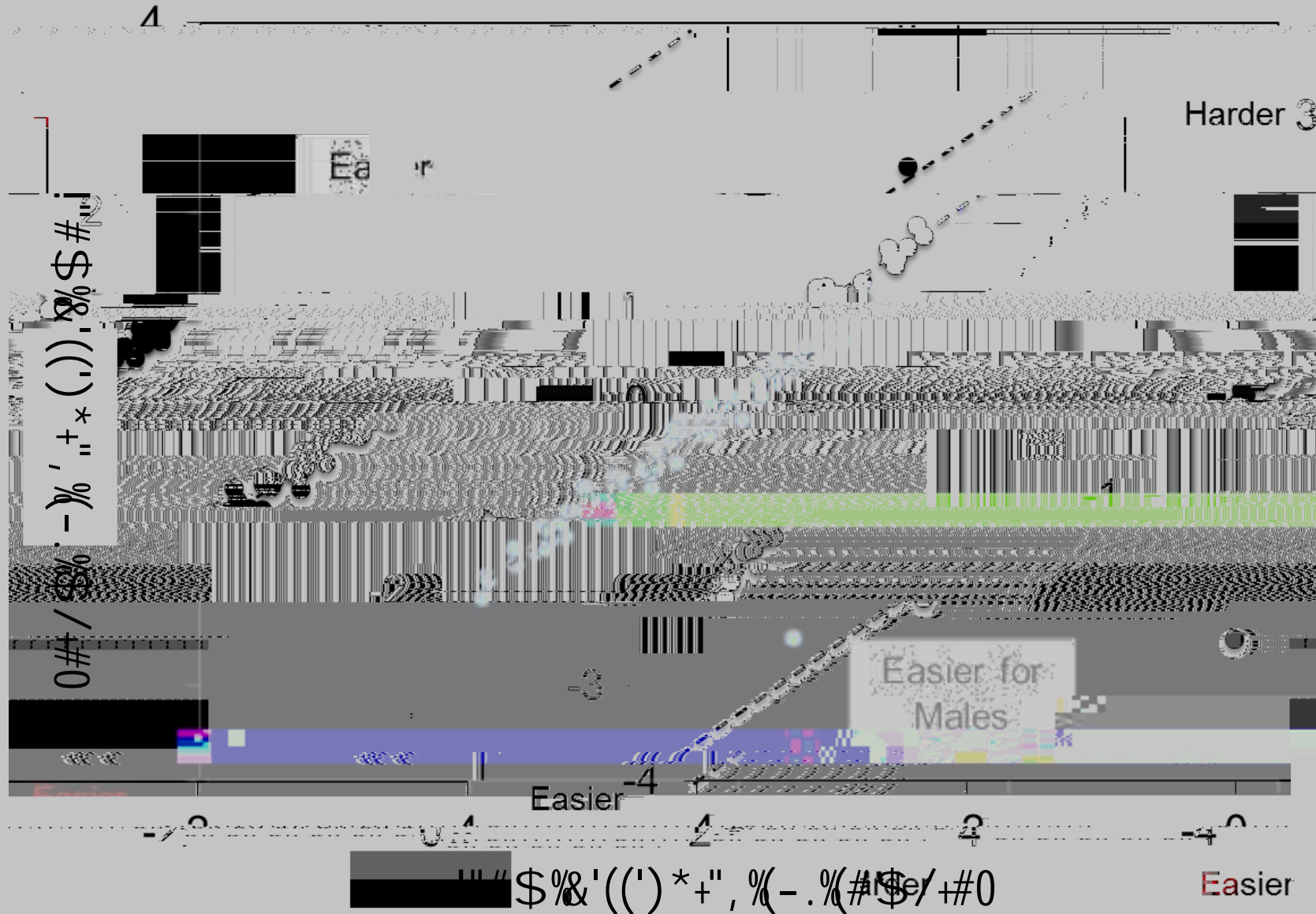
Reference group

- traditional demographic groups for REx-PN®
(*females, white*)

Focal group

- males, non-white

The Concept of DIF



DIF Panel Review

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If an Item Shows DIF, So What?

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DIF

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Previous Findings

Nursing content that has shown DIF in the past:

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