



PEDIATRIC NURSING
CERTIFICATION BOARD

PNCB Acute Care PNP Detailed Content Outline

Description of the Specialty

The CPNP-AC role is designed to meet the specialized physiologic and psychological needs of children with complex acute, critical and chronic health conditions. CPNP-ACs respond to rapidly changing clinical conditions, including the recognition and management of emerging crises, organ dysfunction and failure. In accordance with this practice focus CPNP-ACs role activities encompass a wide range of NP practice strategies including contributing to the management of childrens' health and illness states, the client-nurse relationship, the teaching-coaching function, the professional role, managing and negotiating healthcare delivery systems, monitoring and ensuring the quality of health care practice, providing family-centered care, and demonstrating cultural competency. The short-term goal of care is stabilization of the child, minimizing complications, and providing physical and psychological care measures. The long-term goal of care is to restore maximal health potential through implementation of NP strategies to reduce health risks. The continuum of care spans geographic settings including emergency departments, sub-specialty clinics, the home, hospitals and intensive care units.

Credential

Candidates successfully passing this exam will earn the certification credential CPNP-AC.

Exam

Scored test questions will be distributed among the exam content areas as follows (full content outline on subsequent pages):

CONTENT AREAS 2010	Total %
1. Assessment and Diagnosis	48%
A. Health History	8%
B. Physical Examination and Diagnostics	14%
C. Diagnoses of Health Status	26%
2. Management	48%
A. Implement and Evaluate Therapeutic Interventions	43%
B. Education, Collaboration, Consultation and Referral	5%
3. Professional Practice Role to include Research / Evidence based practice, Education and Leadership	4%
Total	100%

Acute Care PNP Exam content will address acute, chronic and critical health problems in children and adolescents within the full pediatric age range and will also incorporate integrated concepts including:

Safety (e.g., poisoning, restraints)

Diversity (e.g., cultural, ethnicity, gender issues)



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Total
%

I. Assessment and Diagnosis

48%

A. Health History

1. Identify and analyze factors that affect the child's growth and development such as:
 - a. Health status (e.g., demands of disease and injuries)
 - b. Significant life events (e.g., trauma, loss, violence)
 - c. Technology dependence (e.g., feeding tubes, artificial airways, indwelling catheters)
 - d. Nutrition
2. Analyze the family system to identify factors that influence the health of the child and the health risks in context of illness by assessing:
 - a. Violence within the family
 - b. Family management of and coping with acute and chronic illness
 - c. Pharmacologic, integrative, complementary therapies
 - d. Demands of disease and injury (e.g., adherence to treatment protocol, disease co-morbidity, burdens of care, risk for maltreatment)
 - e. Access to health care
3. Assess child's and family's knowledge and behavior regarding the pathophysiology of disease and injury
4. Obtain and document a relevant health history for children

B. Physical Examination, Screening and Diagnostics

1. Perform and record a complete and accurate physical assessment
2. Order and interpret age and situation appropriate screening labs and other diagnostic tests
3. Assess emergent and life threatening situations
4. Assess for child abuse and neglect
5. Differentiate between normal and abnormal development

C. Diagnosis of Health Status

1. Recognize individual variations including genetic, ethnic, physiologic, and anatomic differences
2. Identify etiology, natural history, developmental considerations, pathogenesis, and clinical manifestations of specific disease and injury processes in children
3. Formulate and prioritize differential diagnoses
4. Identify nutritional needs
5. Identify pain management needs
6. Identify diagnoses
7. Identify organ system dysfunction
 - a. Cardiology
 - b. Endocrinology/ Metabolic
 - c. Gastroenterology
 - d. Genitourinary/Renal
 - e. Hematology/ Oncology
 - f. Immunology
 - g. Infectious Disease
 - h. Musculoskeletal
 - i. Neurology
 - j. Otolaryngology
 - k. Pulmonology
 - l. Trauma
8. Assess the effect of acute and chronic illnesses on:
 - a. Growth and development
 - b. Nutritional status
 - c. Pain
 - d. Child and family coping
 - e. Activity/mobility
 - f. Skin integrity



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**Total
%**

II. Management

48%

A. Implement and Evaluate Therapeutic Interventions

1. Provide initial resuscitation and stabilization in emergent and life threatening situations
2. Assist the parent/child in coping with demands of the disease or injury and in facilitating the child's developmental potential
3. Perform and/or interpret age and situation appropriate screening labs and other therapeutic procedures
4. Prescribe and/or maintain medication regimens recognizing the pharmacodynamic and pharmacokinetic processes
5. Prescribe therapies to minimize complications (e.g., co-morbidity, iatrogenic) associated with acute and chronic conditions
6. Prescribe therapies to ensure patient safety
7. Prescribe and apply technologic devices that monitor and sustain functioning
8. Collaborate in implementing appropriate palliative and end of life care processes
9. Manage health alterations related to:
 - a. Cardiology
 - b. Dermatology
 - c. Endocrinology/ Metabolic
 - d. Gastroenterology
 - e. Genitourinary/Renal
 - f. Hematology/ Oncology
 - g. Immunology
 - h. Infectious Disease
 - i. Musculoskeletal
 - j. Neurology
 - k. Otolaryngology
 - l. Pulmonology
 - m. Trauma
10. Prescribe and/or maintain other therapies related to the effects of the acute and chronic condition on:
 - a. Growth and Development
 - b. Nutritional status
 - c. Pain
 - d. Child and family coping
 - e. Skin Integrity
 - f. Activity/mobility
 - g. Sleep and rest
11. Evaluate the child and family's response to interventions
12. Revise the plan of care based on the evaluation

B. Educating, Collaboration, Consultation and Referral

1. Educate the child and family concerning the following:
 - a. Demands of disease or injury
 - b. Treatment modalities
 - c. Impact of the disease on the child's development
 - d. Responsibility for self care
2. Provide anticipatory guidance and health promotion in the context of acute or chronic illness or injury
3. Collaborate in a developmentally-appropriate manner with the child and the family in treatment planning and decision making
4. Incorporate child and family centered evidence based practice and research into treatment modalities
5. Collaborate with other members of the health care team
6. Collaborate in implementing appropriate palliative and end of life care
7. Refer children to appropriate community agencies and for family support and specialty care as needed
8. Activate child protection services and other resources on behalf of children at risk
9. Plan for transition to various home or health care settings
10. Consult with or refer to other members of the health care team



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**Total
%**

III. Professional Practice Role to include Research/Evidence-based Practice, Education and Leadership

4%

- A. Participate in quality improvement, research and evidence-based practice activities
- B. Provide education to other health care professionals to promote child health care
- C. Interpret the nurse practitioner role in pediatric health to other health care providers and the public
- D. Maintain current knowledge regarding state and federal programs for child and family health care
- E. Participate in ethical decision making and practice
- F. Develop standards, pathways and protocols

Exam Content: Body Systems

Signs and symptoms of disease and organ dysfunction will be addressed in the following body systems. Exam content will include but not be limited to, a focus on the following prioritized organ systems:

Assessment

Pulmonology	1
Cardiology	2
Infectious disease	3
Neurology	4
Gastrointestinal	5
Hematology / Oncology	6
Trauma	7
Endocrine / Metabolic	8
Renal	9
Musculoskeletal	10
Immunology	11
Otolaryngology	12

Management

Pulmonology	1
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Dermatology	13