

Certified Pediatric Emergency Nurse (CPEN™) Content List

A Pediatric Emergency Nurse is a registered nurse who provides urgent and emergent nursing care to pediatric patients and families. Nursing care includes providing direct care, health care facilitation, education, and advocacy for patients and families.

The following concepts are integrated throughout the examination, appropriate to the stated task:

- Diversity (cultural, ethnic)
- Communication
- Growth and development
- Pharmacology (e.g., medication reactions)
- Medication administration (e.g., weight based calculations)
- Health promotion and injury prevention
- Discharge teaching
- Collaboration with other health care providers
- Conflict resolution
- Customer service
- Evidence-based practice

Approximately 7% of the examination will require only recall on the part of the candidate, 55% will require application of knowledge, and 38% will require analysis of pediatric emergency situations.

1. Triage (16 items)

A. Emergency Intake

1. Perform visual assessment (sick vs. not sick)
2. Perform Pediatric Assessment Triangle (PAT)
3. Identify and intervene with life or limb threatening illnesses or injuries
4. Assign triage acuity level designations
5. Identify the need for decontamination
6. Identify potential chemical and biological threats
7. Assess for the need for resources based on volume

B. Triage Interventions

1. Perform first aid (e.g., splint, ice, eyewash, analgesia)
2. Select and administer medications

2. Assessment (29 items)

A. History and Physical

1. Perform a primary survey (airway, breathing, circulation, disability)
2. Perform secondary survey (focused assessment)
3. Obtain detailed medical and surgical history
4. Assess psychosocial status and risk for violence
5. Evaluate assessment findings related to developmental milestones
6. Customize the assessment for children with special needs (i.e., developmental diversity)

7. Identify caregivers' perception of child's baseline
8. Identify suspected abuse, neglect, maltreatment

B. Pain

1. Perform age appropriate assessment of pain

C. Family

1. Identify primary caregiver
2. Assess family functioning and dynamics
3. Assess family coping strategies and support systems

3. Patient and Family Care: Managing Technical Skills (18 items)

A. Technical Skills

1. Intraosseous access
2. Cardioversion
3. Defibrillation
4. Cardiac pacing
5. Peripheral IV access
6. Central IV access (including PICC, venous access ports)
7. Invasive hemodynamic monitoring (e.g., central venous pressure, arterial lines)
8. Incision and drainage
9. Dressings
10. Wound closure
11. Intracranial pressure monitoring
12. Chest tubes
13. Nasopharyngeal wash (e.g., RSV)
14. Traction splinting
15. Specimen collection
16. Enteral tubes (e.g., nasogastric, orogastric, PEG)
17. Chemical or biological decontamination
18. Capnography
19. Ventilator use
20. BiPAP, CPAP
21. Removal of an injured child from a child safety seat
22. Spinal immobilization
23. Holding for procedures
24. 12-lead ECG
25. Airway adjunct
26. Infant warmer

4. Patient and Family Care: Medical emergencies (42 items)

A. Airway

1. Mechanical obstruction (e.g., foreign body)
2. Pathophysiologic (e.g., anaphylaxis, infectious)
3. Congenital (e.g., stenosis, malacia)

B. Respiratory (Upper and Lower)

1. Mechanical (e.g., pneumothorax, foreign body, embolism)
2. Pathophysiological (e.g., bronchiolitis, reactive airway disease, pneumonia)
3. Congenital (e.g., chronic lung disease)

C. Cardiovascular

1. Mechanical (e.g., tamponade, tension pneumothorax)
2. Pathophysiologic (e.g., shock, rhythm disturbances, congestive heart failure, infections)
3. Congenital (e.g., aortic stenosis)

D. Neurological

1. Mechanical (e.g., shunt malfunction, tumors)
2. Pathophysiologic (e.g., seizures, infections, stroke, headache)
3. Congenital (e.g., hydrocephalus, arteriovenous malformation)

E. Gastrointestinal

1. Mechanical (e.g., obstructions, intussusception)
2. Pathophysiologic (e.g., infections, necrotizing enterocolitis, fluid-electrolyte imbalance)
3. Congenital (e.g., tracheoesophageal fistula,)
4. Nutrition (e.g., failure to thrive, formula intolerance, obesity)

F. Genitourinary and Reproductive

1. Mechanical (e.g., stricture, ovarian cyst)
2. Pathophysiologic (e.g., urinary tract infections, renal failure, sexually transmitted infections)
3. Congenital (e.g., urethral valve disease)

G. Emergencies unique to neonates

1. Pathophysiologic (e.g., infections, necrotizing enterocolitis, fluid-electrolyte imbalance, jaundice, thermoregulation)
2. Congenital (e.g., ductal dependent lesions, tracheoesophageal fistula, obstructive uropathy)
3. Nutritional deficits
4. Care of the newly born (e.g., resuscitation following delivery)

H. Environmental

1. Heat and cold
2. Bites and stings
3. Toxic exposures (e.g., nuclear, chemical, radiologic, biologic)
4. Ingestions (e.g., intentional and unintentional)

I. Other Medical Emergencies

1. Hematology (e.g., sickle cell, bleeding or clotting disorders)
2. Oncology (e.g., fever and neutropenia, tumor lysis syndrome)
3. Endocrine (e.g., congenital adrenal disorders, glucose disturbance)
4. Genetic and metabolic
5. Dermatology (e.g., rashes, infections)
6. Eyes, ears, nose, and throat (e.g., hyphema)

5. Patient and Family Care: Surgical, Trauma, and Procedural Sedation (27 items)

A. Surgical emergencies

1. Gastrointestinal (e.g., acute abdomen, appendicitis, malrotation/volvulus, strangulated hernia, pyloric stenosis)

2. Genitourinary and reproductive (e.g., testicular torsion, ectopic pregnancy)
3. Musculoskeletal (e.g., compartment syndrome, slipped capital femoral epiphysis (SCFE))
4. Postoperative hemorrhage (e.g., tonsillectomy)
5. Neurological (e.g., shunt failure, herniation syndrome)

B. Trauma emergencies

1. Burns (e.g., heat, electrical, inhalation)
2. Near drowning
3. Neurological trauma
4. Musculoskeletal trauma (e.g., fractures, lacerations, joint dislocations, sprains and strains)
5. Cardiothoracic trauma (e.g., pneumothorax, hemothorax)
6. Abdominal trauma
7. Maxillofacial and dental trauma
8. Multi-system trauma

C. Procedural sedation

1. Patient monitoring
2. Essential equipment (e.g., electrocardiogram, blood pressure, SPO2, oxygen, airway)
3. Medications and reversal agents
4. Consent

6. Patient and Family Care: Psychological and Maltreatment Emergencies (11 items)

A. Psychological emergencies

1. Suicidal ideations/attempts
2. Homicidal ideations/attempts
3. Acute psychosis
4. Aggressive behavior
5. Substance abuse
6. Post-traumatic stress disorder

B. Child maltreatment emergencies

1. Abuse (e.g., shaken impact syndrome, Munchausen syndrome by proxy)
2. Neglect
3. Emotional abuse
4. Sexual abuse (including sexual assault)

7. Legal and Professional Issues (7 items)

A. Legal Issues

1. Ensure that informed consent has been obtained
2. Ensure preservation of forensic evidence and chain of custody
3. Comply with EMTALA regulations

B. Professional Issues

1. Resolve conflicts with family members
2. Facilitate in critical incident stress management (debriefing)
3. Promote safety and health/wellness in the community