



Tips for Taking the Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner – Acute Care Exam

The goal of the PNCB is for you to successfully pass the CPNP-AC exam. Your education and precepted clinical experiences should be the basis for your preparation, but here are some additional suggestions for review.

General information:

- The PNCB has published research describing the characteristics related to candidates who are unsuccessful in our certification exams. Please review this information on our web site at http://www.pncb.org/ptistore/resource/content/news/poster_presentation_vert_proof.pdf. It is important to note that experiencing personal stress prior to the exam has been associated with difficulty in passing the certification exam.
- Remember to read the exam items carefully, and choose the BEST answer. Some answers may be similar. Also, the answers are based on national guidelines, practice and textbooks and may not reflect local trends or “practice-specific” experiences.
- All of the PNCB certification exams are nationally accredited. Exams are based upon role delineation research and are described as criterion referenced exams. To review scoring, see our web site at <http://www.pncb.org/ptistore/control/exams/ac/score>. All exams are scored and re-checked to eliminate the possibility of any scoring error.
- Passing the exam is linked to successful performance in all exam categories. You should aim to get at least 70-75% of the answers correct in each of the exam content areas. The PNCB’s certification exams have a high positive statistical reliability score. As a result, exam results might be the same unless additional study and remediation is planned. Additional study in the areas of exam weakness should improve chances for success at subsequent re-examination.
- Remember that the exam tests knowledge in acute care PNP practice. If you are not currently working as a CPNP, you should plan additional study time to re-focus your clinical knowledge in areas of acute care pediatrics before you re-examine. We encourage you to talk to other respected CPNP clinicians and your PNP faculty.
- If you are unsuccessful in passing the exam, take time to review your results in each category of the content outline, and then assign study time based on your own areas of weakness.
- If you re-examine, you will not receive the same exam form. However, all CPNP-AC exams are based upon the CPNP Acute Care Exam Content Outline. All forms of the exam are statically equated. There is no advantage to taking any of the forms of the CPNP Acute Care exam.
- Unsuccessful candidates may repeat the PNP Acute Care Exam. Opportunities for re-examination will be based upon the number of available exam forms. Candidates will not be allowed to repeat the test using the same exam form. There is no waiting period PNCB's eligibility requirements must be met at time of application. On receipt of an application and reexamination fees, a new 90-day testing period will be assigned.

Textbook Resources and Continuing Education Exam Simulation Exercises:

Candidates are encouraged to review the list of textbooks used to prepare test items for PNCB’s certification exams at our web site at http://www.pncb.org/ptistore/control/exams/ac/reference_list. Opportunities to earn continuing education and complete computerized practice testing are also available through the PNCB’s PEDs Prep exercise. Learn more about these resources at http://www.pncb.org/ptistore/control/news/prep_test.