



Tips for Taking the Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Exam

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

Textbooks 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 website, www.pncb.org.

Primary Care Exam PREP:

Opportunities to complete computerized practice tests are also available through the PNCB's PEDs Exam Prep exercise. The PEDS Primary Care Exam Prep is a unique practice testing tool designed to offer Primary Care PNP exam candidates a simulation of the computer-based CPNP exam, become familiar with the presentation and structure of CPNP exam questions and a learning activity to review content related to the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner role in primary care. Graduating Primary Care PNP students are encouraged to take one or both of the 75 test item exams which provide practice in answering questions related to health promotion, prevention and anticipatory guidance, assessment, illness management and professional issues.

The PNCB's Test-Taking Strategies module covers all phases of exam readiness, from dealing with test anxiety to creating a study plan and performing well on exam day, plus detailed tactics for analyzing and answering multiple-choice exam questions.

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.
- If you re-examine, you will not receive the same exam form. However, all CPNP® exam forms are based upon the CPNP® Exam Content Outline. All forms of the exam are statistically equated. There is no advantage to taking a particular form of the CPNP® Exam.
- Remember to read the exam items carefully, and chose 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 on role delineation research and are described as criterion referenced exams. To review PNCB exam scoring, see our website at <http://www.pncb.org/>. All exams are scored and re-checked to eliminate the possibility of any scoring error.
- Take time to review your results in each category of the content outline, and then assign study time based on the weak areas.
- 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 CPNP® Exams test knowledge in a particular area of PNP practice, either Primary Care or Acute Care. If you are not working in the arena of the exam you plan to take, you should prepare for additional study time to re-focus your clinical knowledge in that area of pediatrics before you re-examine. We encourage you to talk to other CPNP® clinicians and your PNP faculty.
- Additional information is required before a candidate who has been unsuccessful three times, may apply for a fourth exam attempt. These candidates will need to contact Maggie Jones, Director of Customer Service, at mjones@pncb.org.

Learn more about these resources at www.pncb.org.

Revised 12/7/2011