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## PEDIATRIC NURSING CERTIFICATION BOARD

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### Exam Specifications

#### **Policy statement/implementation:**

The Pediatric Nursing Certification Board, Inc. adheres to all industry standards and requirements for all aspects of certification exam development. Exam specifications, or test blueprints, for PNCB's certification exams must include certain required information in order to be consistent with industry standards and best practices, as well as to maintain necessary accreditation standards.

The following critical elements of any PNCB exam specifications are established through PNCB's cycle of subject matter expert involvement, staff oversight, and contracted test development vendor facilitation and guidance:

A public-facing copy of exam specifications / test blueprints are published on the PNCB website with the following information:

- A. Required information on each content outline includes:
  - I. Description of the specialty
  - II. Credential
  - III. Exam detail
    - 1. Number of items
    - 2. Number of non-scored items
    - 3. Testing time
    - 4. Domain areas
    - 5. How to use the content outline
    - 6. Details of the content outline
      - a. Domains
      - b. Sub-domains
      - c. Tasks
      - d. Sub-tasks
      - e. Clinical problems and/or Diagnoses
      - f. Procedures (when applicable)
      - g. Screening and Assessment Tools (when applicable)
      - h. Pharmacologic and Therapies / Interventions (when applicable)
- B. Official content outline locations:
  - I. Content outlines are available to [www.pncb.org](http://www.pncb.org) website visitors at any time; locations of each \*current\* content outline follows:
    - 1. CPN® Content Outline - <https://www.pncb.org/cpn-exam-resources>
    - 2. CPNP-PC® Content Outline - <https://www.pncb.org/cpnp-pc-exam-resources>
    - 3. CPNP-AC® Content Outline - <https://www.pncb.org/cpnp-ac-exam-resources>
    - 4. PMHS® Content Outline - <https://www.pncb.org/pmhs-exam-resources>
  - II. Word document and PDF copies of \*current\* and \*historical\* content outlines are located in a restricted access, shared internal drive.

2. Internal Information Regarding Exam Specifications:

- A. Required information on each internal specification report includes:
  - I. Scope of the certification
  - II. Target Audience of the certification
  - III. Objective/purpose of the examination including what the exam is intended to measure
  - IV. Level of practice
  - V. Exam design considerations, critical elements of the examination program, and associated rationales
  - VI. Domains
  - VII. Domain weights (not applicable, as of 10/29/2020)
  - VIII. Task statements for each domain
  - IX. Method of assembling items into test forms
  - X. Type(s) of items, number of items
  - XI. Examination administration information including:
    - 1. How often the exam is offered
    - 2. Time permitted
    - 3. Format (computer-based test, built in accordance with vendor's Test Parameter Document)
    - 4. Number of scored and non-scored (pre-test) items
    - 5. Number/proportion of new and previously used items
- B. Documents must be maintained by PNCB's Exam Development Team and reviewed annually.
- C. Internal Exam Specification Reports (x4) can be located in a restricted access, shared internal drive.

Date Approved: 06/2016  
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