



PEDIATRIC NURSING  
CERTIFICATION BOARD

# Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Certification Exam



## Detailed Content Outline

### Description of the Specialty

*This exam is for the pediatric nurse practitioner (PNP) who has graduated from a master's degree or DNP degree program or postgraduate certificate program for acute care pediatric nurse practitioners (PNPs).* The Acute Care CPNP® role provides family-centered and culturally respectful care for pediatric patients with acute, complex, critical, and chronic illness across a variety of care settings. The CPNP-AC works closely with an interprofessional team to provide the highest level of evidence-based care for infants, children, adolescents, and young adults with life-threatening illnesses and organ dysfunction or failure. Due to their unique health care needs, patients outside the traditionally defined pediatric age parameters may be best served by the CPNP-AC. The practitioner in this role is responsible for independent and collaborative decision making with direct accountability for clinical judgment. The CPNP-AC monitors and ensures the quality of health care practice and assists the patient and family in negotiating health care delivery systems.

### Credential

A PNP who passes this exam is called a **Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner** and earns the **CPNP** credential. CPNPs are entitled to use this credential as long as they actively maintain their certification. Acute care CPNPs may choose to use the credential CPNP-AC. Both are acceptable by the PNCB. Your employer or state board may have a global acronym that you are expected use in your practice.

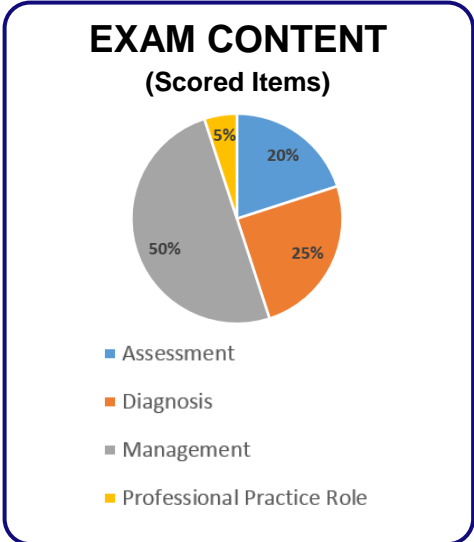
### Exam

150 scored test and 25 non-scored pre-test questions will be distributed among the exam content areas as follows (full content outline on subsequent pages). You will not be able to distinguish between scored and non-scored questions. Non-scored questions help PNCB pilot test newly written questions for future exam forms. Your total testing time is 3 hours.

Assessment	(20%) = 30 test questions
Diagnosis	(25%) = 38 test questions
Management	(50%) = 75 test questions
Professional Practice Role	(5%) = 7 test questions

### How to Use this Content Outline

The CPNP-AC exam content outline (also known as a test blueprint) is an essential tool as you study for your exam. It describes all of the subject areas covered by the exam and number of questions per category. PNCB certification exams are comprehensive, so be sure to study all areas of the content outline, including areas with which you may not be familiar. This exam tests your ability to apply knowledge and use critical thinking skills to determine **one best answer** among available options.





# PNCB Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Detailed Content Outline

## I. Assessment

20%

### A. Health History

1. **As part of assessment, identify and analyze factors that affect the child's growth and development including:**
  - a. Functional mobility
  - b. Genetic and prenatal influences
  - c. Mental health and psychological influences (e.g., temperament, peer relationships, bullying)
  - d. Nutrition
  - e. Oral health status
  - f. Previous medical history (e.g., congenital disease, acquired disease, chronic and acute conditions)
  - g. Significant life events (e.g., trauma, loss, violence)
  - h. Sleep patterns
  - i. Substance use/abuse
  - j. Technology dependence (e.g., feeding tubes, artificial airways, indwelling catheters)\*
2. **Analyze the family system influences on the health of the child by assessing:**
  - a. Access to healthcare
  - b. Family composition and dynamics (e.g., caregiver, family unit, parenting style, communication)
  - c. Family coping with, and management of, acute and chronic illnesses
  - d. Family occupation, education, stressors (e.g., illiteracy, immigration, homelessness)
  - e. Family resources (e.g., financial, insurance, support system)
  - f. Family values and beliefs
  - g. Family violence
3. **Assess the child's health risks related to:**
  - a. Demands of disease and injury (e.g., treatment adherence, co-morbidities, burdens of care)\*
  - b. Environmental milieu (e.g., home, day care, community) and exposures (e.g., smoking, lead)
  - c. Ethnic, cultural, and spiritual practices
  - d. Maltreatment (e.g., abuse, neglect)
  - e. Pharmacologic, integrative, complementary therapies (e.g., adverse effects, interactions)
  - f. Safety practices
  - g. Social-psychological influences (e.g., peers, risk-taking behaviors, violence)
4. **Assess child's and family's knowledge and behavior and promote health regarding:**
  - a. Environmental risks
  - b. Health status (e.g., demands of disease and injuries, technology dependence)
  - c. Mental health and psychological influences (e.g., peer influences, bullying)
  - d. Nutrition (e.g., eating disorders, obesity, failure to thrive)
  - e. Oral health
  - f. Physical activity and functional mobility
  - g. Previous medical history (e.g., congenital disease, acquired disease, chronic and acute conditions)



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- h. Sexual behavior and practices
- i. Significant life events (e.g., trauma, loss, violence)
- j. Sleep and rest patterns
- k. Substance use/abuse (e.g., alcohol, tobacco, inhalants)
- l. Wellness (e.g., immunizations, safety)

**5. As part of assessment, obtain a relevant health history:**

- a. Chief complaint, history of present illness, and review of systems
- b. Family/medical/surgical history
- c. Growth and developmental history
- d. Maternal/prenatal/perinatal and birth history
- e. Medications, immunizations, allergies, therapies
- f. Nutrition
- g. Social/family history with genogram (e.g., cultural, environmental, education, safety and wellness, spiritual, travel)

### **B. Physical Examination**

**1. Complete an accurate physical examination to identify:**

- a. Acute conditions
- b. Age and situation specific screening needed for chronic conditions
- c. Emergent and life-threatening situations
- d. Maltreatment (e.g., abuse, neglect)
- e. Normal and abnormal findings (e.g., development, behavior, physical, pain)

## **II. Diagnosis**

**25%**

**A. As part of diagnosing, determine health status specific to:**

- 1. Activity/mobility
- 2. Age and situation specific diagnostic studies\*
- 3. Comfort (e.g., anxiety, sleep, pain)
- 4. Growth and development
- 5. Individual variations (e.g., genetic, ethnic)
- 6. Nutritional status\*
- 7. Pathogenesis, clinical manifestations, trajectory of specific disease and injury
- 8. Physiologic function and dysfunction\*
- 9. Prioritized differential diagnoses
- 10. Psychological response (e.g., coping, mental health)
- 11. Sexual/reproductive issues

\*This task is tied to one or more technical competencies listed on page 5.



### **III. Management**

**50%**

#### **A. Implementation, Evaluation, Revision**

- 1. As part of management, implement, evaluate, and revise interventions related to:**
  - a. Age and situation specific screening\*
  - b. Age and situation specific therapeutic procedures\*
  - c. Behavioral modifications to manage health risks
  - d. Complications (e.g., co-morbidity, iatrogenic) \*
  - e. Coping with demands of disease or injury to facilitate developmental potential\*
  - f. Economics of healthcare\*
  - g. Family-centered care
  - h. Initial resuscitation and stabilization in emergent and life-threatening situations\*
  - i. Medication regimens recognizing the pharmacodynamic and pharmacokinetic processes\*
  - j. Palliative care (e.g., hospice, symptom management)
  - k. Patient safety\*
  - l. Physiological/psychological response to therapy\*
  - m. Technological devices that monitor and sustain function\*

#### **B. Education, Collaboration, Referral**

- 1. As part of management, educate the child and family concerning the following:**
  - a. Anticipatory guidance, health promotion, and safety
  - b. Pathogenesis, clinical manifestations, trajectory of specific disease and injury
  - c. Self-care
  - d. Treatment modalities (e.g., medications, therapies, diagnostic studies, equipment)\*
- 2. As part of management, collaborate with:**
  - a. Communities of interest (e.g., educational systems, outpatient services, public health)
  - b. Interprofessional team
  - c. Patient and family
- 3. As part of management, consult with and refer to:**
  - a. Child protective services and other resources
  - b. Community agencies
  - c. Healthcare transition (e.g., pediatric to adult)
  - d. Home or extended healthcare services
  - e. Sub-specialists, other healthcare disciplines, or other levels of care

\*This task is tied to one or more technical competencies listed on page 5.



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## IV. Professional Practice Role

5%

### A. Develop a professional practice role which includes:

1. Advocacy (e.g., patient, child health, local, state, federal)
2. Confidentiality and privacy
3. Documentation and/or reimbursement (e.g., billing, coding)
4. Economics of healthcare
5. Education of other healthcare professionals
6. Ethical decision making\*
7. Knowledge of public issues that affect the delivery of healthcare services for children and families
8. Professional accountability (e.g., licensing, credentialing, privileging, competency)
9. Professional and collaborative relationships (e.g., mentoring, precepting, committee participation, peer review, communication)
10. Quality indicators (e.g., improvement, assurance, management)\*
11. Research and evidence-based practice (e.g., interpret, apply, participate)\*

\*This task is tied to one or more technical competencies listed below.

### Technical Competencies

These technical competencies are linked to the statements above with an asterisk (\*).

- Physiologic Monitoring/Support:
  - Hemodynamic monitoring
  - Nutritional support:
    - prescribe enteral nutrition
    - prescribe total parenteral nutrition
  - Procedural sedation
  - Respiratory monitoring
  - Ventilator management, including noninvasive positive pressure ventilation
- Interpretation of Diagnostic Results
  - Computerized tomography
  - Echocardiogram
  - EKG
  - Magnetic resonance imaging
  - Radiographic plain films
  - Ultrasound
- Interpretation of Laboratory Data
  - Blood
  - Cerebral spinal fluid
  - Cultures: microbiology
  - Urine

### Clinical Problems / Body Systems

Specific conditions will be represented within the exam in the following rank order of frequency:

- 1 - Pulmonology
- 2 - Cardiology
- 3 - Infectious Diseases
- 4 - Trauma/Burns/Maltreatment
- 5 - Neurology/Neurosurgery
- 6 - Oncology
- 7 - Gastrointestinal
- 8 - Pain/Sedation
- 9 - Musculoskeletal
- 10 - Otolaryngology/Cranio-facial/Dental
- 11 - Hematology
- 12 - Renal
- 13 - Allergy/Immunology/Rheumatology
- 14 - Dermatology
- 15 - Endocrinology
- 16 - Genetics/Metabolic
- 17 - Genitourinary
- 18 - Toxicology