



2017-18 Job Task Analysis of the Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner - Primary Care Executive Summary

The CPNP-PC examination validates knowledge and expertise of pediatric nurse practitioners in primary care. All certification boards conduct periodic job task analyses to ensure that the examination content accurately represents practice in the profession.

The Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB) conducted a job task analysis (JTA) of pediatric nurse practitioners from May 2017 to January 2018. Findings from this research were used to update the test specifications and detailed content outline used to build the Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner – Primary Care (CPNP-PC) examination.

A JTA is designed to obtain descriptive information about the tasks performed in practice. The purpose of this JTA was to:

- update and validate the inventory of tasks performed by primary care pediatric nurse practitioners;
- update inventories of clinical problems seen and procedures performed in practice; and
- develop new test specifications and a detailed content outline for the CPNP-PC examination.

Conduct of the JTA

The JTA consisted of qualitative and quantitative data collection activities. The then-current detailed content outline for the CPNP-PC examination, which describes the domains of practice and tasks performed by primary care pediatric nurse practitioners, as well as the clinical problems seen and procedures performed, formed the starting point for the JTA. The successful outcome of the JTA depended on the thoroughness of information provided by pediatric nurse practitioners who practice in primary care.

The work of updating the existing CPNP-PC content outline was primarily accomplished through the efforts of a JTA Task Force comprised of subject-matter experts (SMEs). The Task Force was selected to represent diversity in practice settings and geographic location to ensure representativeness in the description of practice.

Survey Development

After the Task Force revised and updated the existing examination content outline, ACT ProExam gathered validation evidence for the domains, tasks, clinical problems, and procedures by incorporating them into a web-based survey instrument, developing appropriate rating scales, and administering the survey to the entire population of more than 16,000 CPNP-PCs. The survey, administered from October 18 to November 8, 2017, consisted of seven sections.

Survey Sections
1: Tasks
2: Domains
3: Clinical Problems
4: Procedures
5: Evaluation of Survey Comprehensiveness
6: Demographic and Professional Questions
7: Exploration of Continuing Competence and Career Advancement

Results

Survey Response

A total of 1,509 primary care pediatric nurse practitioners completed the survey.

Survey Ratings

Participants were asked to rate how important each of 63 tasks was on a 4-point scale (1=*Not at all important* to 4=*Highly important*) and how frequently they performed it in a 5-point scale (1=*Never* to 5=*Very frequently*). Participants also rated the importance of each domain and the percentage of time they spent in each. They ranked 19 clinical problems into groupings based on frequency seen, and rated the frequency with which they performed each of 27 procedures on a 5-point scale (1=*Never* to 5=*Very frequently*).

Content Coverage

Most survey participants—especially those in general practice—indicated that the role of the pediatric nurse practitioner in primary care was adequately to very well covered.

Test Specifications Development

The JTA Task Force convened to review the results of the validation survey and create an updated content outline that will guide future versions of the CPNP-PC examination until the next JTA is performed.

Summary

This study used a mixed-methods approach to identifying tasks performed, clinical problems seen, and procedures performed by pediatric nurse practitioners in primary care. The study, conducted in alignment with best practice accreditation guidelines for certification programs, led to the creation of a new content outline for the CPNP-PC examination.

Results at a Glance

Who Completed the Survey? >>>

1,509 of the 16,014 CPNP-PCs invited to participate completed the survey. On average, respondents spent 86% of their time in direct patient care. Those working in ambulatory care in the community comprised 50% of respondents, while 29% worked in ambulatory care in a hospital setting. Respondents identified themselves as specialists or generalists: 37% reported working in a subspecialty area of practice, while 63% were generalists.

Domains >>>

Respondents spent significant amounts of time in all four domains, and rated all domains as moderately to highly important.

Task Ratings >>>

Respondents rated 63 tasks, and all but seven achieved importance and frequency ratings above the thresholds for inclusion in the CPNP-PC detailed content outline. Subject matter expert judgment led to retention of 3 of the lower-rated tasks.

Clinical Problems and Procedures >>>

For generalist CPNP-PCs, the most frequently seen clinical problems were HEENT, followed by dermatology, allergy, gastroenterology, and developmental/behavioral/mental health. Fourteen of the 27 procedures were judged suitable for testing, with rapid tests (e.g., rapid strep) being the most frequently performed, followed by cerumen removal, collect skin and body fluid specimens, and visual acuity tests.