



PEDIATRIC NURSING  
CERTIFICATION BOARD

# 2018-19 Job Task Analysis of the Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner - Acute Care Executive Summary

The CPNP-AC examination validates knowledge and expertise of pediatric nurse practitioners working in acute 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 acute care pediatric nurse practitioners from May 2018 to January 2019. Findings from the research will be used to update the test specifications and detailed content outline used to build the Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner - Acute Care (CPNP-AC) 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 acute 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-AC examination.

## Conduct of the JTA

The JTA consisted of qualitative and quantitative data collection activities. The then-current detailed content outline for the CPNP-AC examination, which describes the domains of practice and tasks performed by acute care pediatric NPs, as well as the clinical problems seen and technical competencies/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 acute care.

The work of updating the existing CPNP-AC 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 collected 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 population of more than 2,900 CPNP-ACs. A link to the survey was also circulated to the NAPNAP Acute Care Special Interest Group. The survey, administered from November 7 to November 25, 2018, 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 373 acute care pediatric nurse practitioners completed the survey.

### Survey Ratings

Participants were asked to rate how important each of 41 tasks were on a 4-point scale (1=Not at all important to 4=Highly important) and how frequently they performed it on 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 21 clinical problems into groupings based on frequency seen. They rated whether they ordered/supervised, performed, or supervised each of 30 procedures and whether they learned to perform each procedure during their acute care pediatric nurse practitioner programs.

### Content Coverage

Nearly all survey participants indicated that the role of the acute care pediatric nurse practitioner was adequately to very well covered in the survey.

### 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-AC 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 acute 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-AC examination.

## RESULTS AT A GLANCE

### *Who Completed the Survey? >>>*

373 acute care pediatric nurse practitioners completed the survey. On average, survey respondents spent 84% of their time in direct patient care. Sixty-nine percent worked in children's hospitals and 21% worked in non-children's major medical centers. Eighty-seven percent reported working in a subspecialty area of practice and 13% were generalists.

### *Domains >>>*

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

### *Tasks >>>*

Respondents rated 41 tasks, and all but two achieved importance and frequency ratings above the thresholds for inclusion in the CPNP-AC detailed content outline. Subject matter expert judgment led to retention of 1 of the 2 lower-rated tasks.

### *Clinical Problems and Procedures >>>*

The most frequently seen clinical problems were respiratory, followed by infectious disease, gastrointestinal/ nutrition and pain/sedation. Eight of the 30 procedures were judged suitable for testing, with lumbar puncture, airway adjunct, chest tube removal, and procedural sedation being the most frequently performed.

