

Pediatric Nursing Board Certification Examination

Test Content Outline

Effective Date: November 15, 2024

There are 150 questions on this examination. Of these, 125 are scored questions and 25 are pretest questions that are not scored. Pretest questions are used to determine how well these questions will perform before they are used on the scored portion of the examination. The pretest questions cannot be distinguished from those that will be scored, so it is important for a candidate to answer all questions. A candidate's score, however, is based solely on the 125 scored questions. Performance on pretest questions does not affect a candidate's score.

This Test Content Outline identifies the areas that are included on the examination. The percentage and number of questions in each of the major categories of the scored portion of the examination are also shown. *Note: The examples in parentheses are not all-inclusive and do not indicate importance.*

Category	Content Domain	Number of Questions	Percentage
I	Assessment and Diagnosis	52	42%
II	Planning and Implementation	39	31%
III	Evaluation	34	27%
TOTAL		125	100%

I Assessment and Diagnosis

A. Knowledge

1. Assessment tools and techniques (eg, pain scale, fall risk, pressure injury risk, withdrawal assessment tool, deterioration scale)
2. Growth and development (eg, developmental stages and milestones, growth charts, developmentally appropriate care)
3. Pathophysiology (eg, childhood diseases, congenital/genetic abnormalities)
4. Pharmacology (eg, immunization, side effects, patient education)
5. Complementary and alternative therapies (eg, essential oils, cupping, herbal supplements)
6. Diagnostic tests and screenings (eg, indications, normal ranges)
7. Culture, religion, socioeconomic status, and health practices of diverse groups (eg, treatment refusal, dietary restrictions, financial constraints, gender identity)

B. Skill

1. Physical assessments (eg, vital sign parameters, body systems)
2. Psychosocial assessments (eg, mental health assessment/screening, high-risk behaviors, substance use disorders, unprotected sex)
3. Medication and treatment reconciliation (eg, allergies, over-the-counter medications)
4. Diagnostic specimen collection (eg, venipuncture, nasal swab, urine specimen)

II Planning and Implementation

A. Knowledge

1. Evidence-based quality improvement measures (eg, bundles, clinical pathways)
2. Treatment interactions (eg, food-medication, herbal-medication, drug-to-drug interactions)
3. Legal and ethical considerations (eg, age of consent, advanced directives, professional role, HIPAA compliance)
4. Identification of changes in patient status (eg, decompensation, recognizing trends)

B. Skill

1. Coordination of individualized care (eg, consultations, case management)
2. Formulation of realistic and measurable outcomes

3. Evidence-based interventions (eg, therapeutic holding, chlorhexidine baths, oral sucrose)
4. Patient safety and risk-reduction measures (eg, restraints, elopement prevention, de-escalation strategies, suicide precautions, infection prevention)
5. Medication administration (eg, oral, parenteral, enteral)
6. Appropriate prioritization of patient intervention (eg, what to do first, who to assess first, time management, delegation)

III Evaluation

A. Knowledge

1. Family structure and dynamics (eg, multiple caregivers)
2. Patient response to illness and hospitalization (eg, coping, regression)
3. Chronic disease management (eg, asthma, diabetes, obesity)
4. Health Promotion (eg, physical activity, nutrition)
5. Expected responses to interventions (eg, medication efficacy, re-assessment, re-evaluation)

B. Skill

1. Therapeutic communication techniques (eg, therapeutic communication, professional communication, trauma-informed care)
2. Teaching methods (eg, teach-back, learning environment)
3. Learning evaluation (eg, reinforcement, return demonstration)

Updated: August 29, 2025