

**Test Content Outline**  
**Effective Date: February 5, 2020**

Cardiac-Vascular Nursing  
Board Certification Examination

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	31	25%
II	Planning and Implementation	44	35%
III	Evaluation and Modification	28	22%
IV	Patient and Community Education	22	18%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>125</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **I Assessment and Diagnosis**

### **A. Knowledge**

1. Anatomy and physiology
2. Pathophysiology

### **B. Skill**

1. Patient interview (e.g., history, chief complaint, allergies)
2. Cardiac-vascular assessment techniques and tools (e.g., Doppler, stroke scale)
3. Data collection and interpretation (e.g., diagnostic tests, laboratory results)
4. Nursing diagnosis identification and prioritization

## **II Planning and Implementation**

### **A. Knowledge**

1. Evidence-based practice guidelines (e.g., ACC/AHA guidelines, quality measures)
2. Scope and standards of practice (i.e., cardiovascular nursing, vascular nursing)
3. Legal and ethical considerations (e.g., informed consent, advance directives)
4. Procedures (e.g., angiogram)
5. Surgeries (e.g., coronary artery bypass, carotid endarterectomy)
6. Pharmacologic therapies
7. Non-pharmacologic and complementary therapies
8. Risk-reduction measures (e.g., venous thromboembolism prophylaxis)

### **B. Skill**

1. Care coordination (e.g., interdisciplinary teams, discharge planning)
2. Interventions (e.g., therapeutic hypothermia)

## **III Evaluation and Modification**

### **A. Knowledge**

1. Expected outcomes
2. Drug interactions (e.g., drug-drug, drug-food)

### **B. Skill**

1. Adverse reactions and events (e.g., heparin-induced thrombocytopenia, hypotension) recognition and treatment
2. Urgent condition (e.g., pseudoaneurysm) recognition and treatment
3. Emergent condition (e.g., STEMI) recognition and treatment

#### **IV Patient and Community Education**

##### **A. Knowledge**

1. Cardiac-vascular risk factors (e.g., ethnicity, smoking)
2. Chronic disease management
3. Cardiac-vascular education topics (e.g., procedures, medications)
4. Self-management strategies (e.g., daily weights, blood pressure logs)
5. Community resources (e.g., cardiac rehabilitation, anticoagulation clinic)

##### **B. Skill**

1. Individualized education planning and implementation (e.g., addressing barriers)
2. Home monitoring (e.g., remote telemetry, point-of-care testing)
3. Health promotion (e.g., wellness counseling, health fairs)