

Test Content Outline
Effective Date: January 25, 2017

Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
Board Certification Examination

There are 200 questions on this examination. Of these, 175 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 175 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.

Category	Domains of Practice	No. of Questions	Percent
I	APRN Core Competencies	28	16%
II	Clinical Practice	80	46%
III	Role-Professional Responsibility	58	33%
IV	Health Care Systems	9	5%
Total		175	100%



I. APRN Core Competencies (16%)

A. Advanced Physiology/Pathophysiology

Note: Each item written addresses at least one of the age groups noted below.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Adolescent | 4. Middle-Old |
| 2. Adult | 5. Oldest-Old |
| 3. Young-Old | |

Knowledge of:

1. Physiology, pathogenesis, clinical manifestations, and etiology of altered physical/psychological health/disease states
2. Impact of aging, culture and genetics on health states, disease risk, and clinical management

Skills in:

3. Analyzing the relationship between normal and abnormal physiology, and specific system alterations
4. Analyzing both typical and atypical presentations of complex acute and chronic comorbidities, including physical and mental health conditions
5. Analyzing physiologic responses to illness and the treatment modalities of acute, chronic, and rapidly changing clinical conditions

B. Advanced Pharmacology

Note: Each item written addresses at least one of the drug agents noted below.

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|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Anti-infective | 7. Genitourologic |
| 2. Anti-neoplastic | 8. Immunologic |
| 3. Cardiovascular | 9. Musculoskeletal/analgesic |
| 4. Endocrine | 10. Neurologic |
| 5. Eye, ear, and skin | 11. Psychiatric |
| 6. Gastrointestinal | 12. Respiratory |

Knowledge of:

1. Pharmacology (e.g., pharmacotherapeutics, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and pharmacogenetics) of broad categories of drugs
2. Prescription-seeking behaviors (e.g., drug dependence, social media marketing, and inappropriate use of antibiotics)
3. Barriers for patient adherence to prescribed regimens (e.g., cost, convenience, polypharmacy, and tolerance)
4. Pharmacologic assessment addressing pharmacogenetic risks, acute and complex medical regimens, drug interactions and adverse events, over-the-counter/complementary/alternative therapies, and the ability of the patient and caregiver to self-manage medications safely and correctly

Skills in:

5. Evaluating the impact of pharmacological agents on physiologic/pathologic processes including high-risk and vulnerable populations
6. Selecting pharmacologic agents based on cost-effectiveness

C. Advanced Physical Assessment

Note: Each item written addresses at least one of the body systems noted below.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <i>Head, eyes, ears, nose, and throat</i> | 7. <i>Neurological (including psychiatric)</i> |
| 2. <i>Respiratory</i> | 8. <i>Endocrine</i> |
| 3. <i>Cardiovascular</i> | 9. <i>Hematopoietic</i> |
| 4. <i>Gastrointestinal</i> | 10. <i>Immune</i> |
| 5. <i>Genitourinary</i> | 11. <i>Integumentary</i> |
| 6. <i>Musculoskeletal</i> | |

Knowledge of:

1. Components of health history, physical, and psychosocial assessments (including patient, family, and communities)
2. Syndromes and constellations of symptoms that may be manifestations of other health problems in older adults
3. Individual, population, and global environmental characteristics

Skills in:

4. Assessing complex acute, critical, and chronically ill patients, incorporating both physiologically and technologically derived data
5. Prioritizing assessment data
6. Performing and documenting a comprehensive and/or focused history and physical exam
7. Correlating assessment findings with underlying physiologic and pathophysiologic changes
8. Assessing the psychosocial, cultural, and genetic impact on patients with complex acute, critical, and chronic illness or injury
9. Assessing spiritual, ethnic, gender, and/or sexual orientation in patients with complex acute, critical, and chronic health conditions
10. Assessing the need for transition to a different level of care
11. Identifying high-risk and vulnerable populations to prevent injury

II. Clinical Practice (46%)

A. Clinical Decision Making/Management

Knowledge of:

1. Diagnostic reasoning (e.g., developing, prioritizing, and establishing differential diagnoses)
2. Standards of care and clinical guidelines
3. Standardized assessment tools (e.g., geriatric scales, pain, mini-mental, high-risk tools)
4. Psychosocial differences (e.g., cultural, spiritual, race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and age-specific)
5. Risk stratification (e.g., physiologic, psychological, family and community, and health care system)

6. Assistive and/or life supportive devices for the complex acute, critical, and chronically ill (e.g., Durable Medical Equipment [DME], and Left Ventricular Assist Device [LVAD])
7. Alternative/complementary therapies

Skills in:

8. Managing complex acute, critical, and chronic conditions
 9. Performing invasive and noninvasive diagnostic tests and/or treatment procedures
 10. Prescribing and/or managing nonpharmacologic and pharmacologic treatment
 11. Supporting patient-centered care across the health care continuum (e.g., palliative care, end-of-life)
 12. Evaluating and modifying the patient's plan of care based on patient response
 13. Ensuring efficient and cost-effective care
 14. Ordering consultations and referrals
 15. Ordering enteral/parenteral nutrition
- B. Health promotion and disease-prevention activities (primary, secondary, and tertiary)

Knowledge of:

1. Physiologic, psychological, and iatrogenic risk for patients
2. Age-specific and condition-specific health promotion activities

Skills in:

3. Screening for acute and chronic health and behavioral problems and disorders
4. Designing and implementing interventions to promote safety and reduce risks

III. Role-Professional Responsibility (33%)

A. Scope and Standards of Practice

Knowledge of:

1. Role, scope, and standards of the adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner
2. Leadership, change, and management concepts (e.g., practice environment)
3. State nurse practice act
4. Credentialing and privileging
5. Informatics and technologies
6. Billing, coding, and documentation
7. Ethical/legal principles and biases that may affect delivery of quality care
8. Risk management
9. Advanced practice ownership (e.g., peer reviews, benchmarking)

Skills in:

10. Identifying and referring patients beyond one's scope of practice
11. Advocating for the full-scope of the adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner role
12. Coordinating care for patients with complex acute, critical, and chronic illnesses, in and across care settings
13. Fostering interprofessional communication, collaboration, negotiation, and conflict management

14. Managing coordination of care
15. Improving practice outcomes within systems

B. Research and Evidence-Based Practice

Knowledge of:

1. Scientific methodologies (e.g., evidence-based practice, research process)

Skills in:

2. Applying critical appraisal skills to evaluate research and evidence-based literature
3. Translating and disseminating evidence-based knowledge into practice
4. Evaluating evidence-based professional standards and guidelines for care

C. Education

Knowledge of:

1. Principles of adult learning
2. Principles of mentoring, coaching, role modeling, and counseling
3. Patient-/family-centered care
4. Health literacy
5. Cognitive, behavioral, and developmental strategies
6. Health care system navigation

Skills in:

7. Assessing, coaching, actively listening, and applying learning strategies

D. Nurse Practitioner-Patient Relationship

Knowledge of:

1. Patient and family psychosocial and spiritual needs
2. Privacy and confidentiality
3. Patient and family advocacy

Skills in:

4. Employing therapeutic communication
5. Applying crisis management strategies

IV. Health Care Systems (5%)

A. Health Care Policy and Delivery

Knowledge of:

1. Political advocacy
2. Organizational and system leadership (e.g., health care system infrastructure, access and barriers)

3. Legislative and regulatory processes (e.g., accreditation guidelines, Joint Commission, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Public Health, and institutional bylaws)
4. Economics (e.g., reimbursement, third-party payors, Medicare, resource utilization)

Skills in:

5. Managing multidisciplinary response teams (e.g., institutional disasters and emergencies)
6. Integrating health information technology (e.g., electronic medical records [EMR], Meaningful Use [MU])

B. Quality of Health Care Practice

Knowledge of:

1. Quality improvement principles (e.g., Quality Safety Education in Nursing [QSEN])

Skills in:

2. Evaluating safety initiatives
3. Applying quality improvement processes and practices (e.g., cost-benefit analysis)

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