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Cardiac Vascular Nursing Board Certification Test Content Outline - effective date: April 6, 2012

There are 175 questions on this examination. Of these, 150 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 150 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	Assessment and Diagnosis	24	16%	
II	Planning and Implementation	33	22%	
III	Evaluation	27	18%	
IV	Cardiac/Vascular Education for Patients, Families, or Groups	26	17%	
V	Professional Role Performance	40	27%	
		Total	150	100%

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I Assessment and Diagnosis (16%)

A. Data collection (e.g., history and physical, diagnostic tests, findings provided by others) and synthesis

Knowledge of:

1. Components of a comprehensive cardiac/vascular patient history
2. Risk factors affecting the cardiac/vascular patient (e.g., cognition, physical disabilities)
3. Analytic tools (e.g., Pain Scale, Borg Scale)
4. Concepts related to the quality of data
5. Anatomy, physiology, and Pathophysiology related to the cardiac (e.g., heart failure, acute coronary syndromes) and vascular (e.g., arterial, venous) systems
6. Age-related changes

Skill in:

7. Using probing questions related to the cardiac/vascular history
8. Performing systematic physical assessments using appropriate tools (e.g., Doppler, pulse oximeter, telemetry monitor)
9. Obtaining pertinent data (e.g., invasive and noninvasive test results, laboratory values, consults) from multiple sources other than the patient
10. Identifying missing information
11. Interpreting assessment findings and test results

B. Nursing diagnosis formulation

Knowledge of:

1. Nursing diagnosis identification related to cardiac/vascular conditions

Skill in:

2. Formulating individualized nursing diagnoses
3. Prioritizing nursing diagnoses

II Planning and Implementation (22%)

A. Planning and implementing an individualized plan of care

Knowledge of:

1. Evidence-based treatment options for the cardiac/vascular patient (e.g., quality measures, CHEST guidelines, AHA guidelines, Vascular Disease Foundation guidelines, implications of research)
2. Complementary therapies (e.g., relaxation, acupuncture)

Skill in:

3. Developing the individualized plan of care for the cardiac/vascular patient, involving patients, family, significant others, caregivers, and interdisciplinary team)
4. Performing interventions according to evidence-based practice guidelines
5. Coordinating care with the interdisciplinary team
6. Using clinical judgment (e.g., responding to acute changes, critical thinking, and problem solving)
7. Formulating outcomes

B. Pharmacological considerations for the cardiac/vascular patient

Knowledge of:

1. Pharmacology (e.g., indications, mechanism of action, drug classification, compatibility)
2. Polypharmacy (e.g., drug-drug interactions, drug-food interactions)
3. Herbal therapy (e.g., herbal-drug interactions)

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4. Administering cardiac/vascular medications safely (e.g., vital signs, laboratory values)
5. Monitoring patient response to medication (e.g., desired response, adverse effects allergies)

III Evaluation (18%)

A. Evaluate the effectiveness of interventions and revise the plan of care based on patient response

Knowledge of:

1. Anticipated outcomes of cardiac/vascular interventions

Skill in:

2. Re-assessing and interpreting patterns and variances related to response to interventions
3. Using patient-specific information to update plan of care

B. Discharge planning

Knowledge of:

1. Cost-effective treatment options (e.g., medication choices, Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD))
2. Available resources (e.g., curative, palliative, end of life, short-term and long-term rehabilitation, cardiac/vascular rehabilitation, community resources)

Skill in:

3. Setting priorities and planning for continuing care
4. Encouraging adherence

IV Cardiac/Vascular Education for Patients, Families, or Groups (17%)

A. Develop a focused education plan

Knowledge of:

1. Components of a cardiac/vascular focused education plan (e.g., pre-procedural education, post-procedural education)

Skill in:

2. Identifying functional status and limitations (e.g., amputee, stroke patient)
3. Assessing and validating learning need, readiness, barriers and literacy level of the cardiac/vascular learner.
4. Establishing the goals of the focused cardiac/vascular education plan
5. Developing presentations that are appropriate for cardiac vascular audiences

B. Implement and evaluate the focused cardiac/vascular education plan

Knowledge of:

1. Teaching techniques of individuals/groups
2. Group dynamics (e.g., resolving conflicts)
3. Methods of measuring goal attainment

Skill in:

4. Organizing information and instructional activities (e.g., weight management, smoking cessation, and physical activity, health maintenance and promotion)
5. Delivering presentations effectively (e.g., lecture/discussion, return demonstration, coaching, counseling)
6. Evaluating and revising the education program (e.g., clarity, accuracy, goal attainment)

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V Professional Role Performance (27%)

A. Nurse patient relationship

Knowledge of:

1. Crisis counseling for patients and families during cardiac/vascular emergencies
2. Coping and defense mechanisms used by patients experiencing cardiac/vascular events (e.g., risk factor modification, new diagnosis)

Skill in:

3. Establishing and maintaining a therapeutic relationship with the cardiac/vascular patient, family, significant others, and caregivers (e.g., grief and loss, family dynamics, culture/diversity)
4. Resolving conflict

B. Patient safety and quality

Knowledge of:

1. Infection prevention (e.g., sub-acute bacterial endocarditis prophylaxis)

Skill in:

2. Managing patient risk associated with cardiac/vascular diagnoses and procedures
3. Gathering, analyzing, and using data trends to identify areas for improvement

C. Law and Ethics

Knowledge of:

1. Regulations and standards of care for cardiac/vascular nursing (e.g., journals, research, specialty organizations)

Skill in:

2. Advocating for cardiac/vascular patients

D. Leadership

Knowledge of:

1. Role of a cardiac/vascular nurse as a leader (e.g., mentor, preceptor, shared governance, content expert)
2. Communication strategies and methods as they pertain to cardiac/vascular nurses (e.g., nurse to nurse, interdisciplinary)

Skill in:

3. Delegating appropriately
4. Establishing and maintaining communication among members of the interdisciplinary team

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