

# National Certified Medical Assistant 2023 Detailed Test Plan - Comparison to Previous

Below is a quick comparison guide detailing the changes in the new Detailed Test Plan

Comparison	Previous	New
Total # scored test questions	150	125
Total # unscored pretest items	15	25
Total time	3 hours	3 hours
4-option multiple-choice items	90-95%	92%
Alternative items	5-10%	8%

## Changes to Exam Content Categories:

Previous		New	
Pharmacology	21	Pharmacology and General Medical Knowledge	18
Clinical Medical Procedures	28	Clinical Medical Procedures	72
Infection, Exposure Control, and Safety		Infection, Exposure Control and Safety	15
Patient Care		Patient Intake and Care	32
Phlebotomy	21	Phlebotomy	15
ECG and Other Diagnostic Tests	18	ECG	10
General Office Procedures	21	Medical Administrative Duties	15
Medical Office Management	25	Consolidated into Medical Administrative Duties	
Laws and Ethics	16	Laws and Ethics	20

### New Tasks:

- 1A1 Apply basic knowledge of anatomy and physiology.
- 1A5 Understand the “Rights” of medication use.
- 1A10 Recognize common signs and symptoms of medical conditions (e.g., diabetes, hypertension).

### Deleted Tasks:

- Adhere to e-prescribing protocols.
- Use a pain scale to report patient pain levels.
- Perform allergy testing.
- Perform auditory acuity tests.
- Perform therapeutic modalities as instructed (e.g., crutch training, hot/cold compress, ROM exercises).
- Assist patients with orthotic or prosthetic devices.
- Adapt care to patients with special needs (e.g., physically, mentally impaired).
- Assist with minor surgical procedures (e.g., skin prep).
- Perform chain of custody collections (e.g., urine drug screening, paternity testing).
- Perform lab instrument maintenance and calibration.
- Provide ongoing monitoring of the patient during stress testing.

**Deleted Tasks (Continued):**

- Communicate effectively verbally and in writing.
- Describe the policies and procedures of the practice to patients.
- Proofread and/or edit office correspondence.
- Ensure the availability of patient informational materials (e.g., pamphlets, patient educational brochures).
- Perform basic operator level troubleshooting on medical office computer equipment and software.
- Manage the patient reminder system (e.g., tickler, recall).
- Recognize the stages of meaningful use and merit-based payment (e.g., MIPS).
- Prepare charts for audits and external reviews.
- Open and close the medical office for the day.
- Handle relationships with associated health care provider offices or business associates.
- Comply with accreditation and licensure requirements.
- Maintain files on the providers' professional status (e.g., licensure or certification, continuing educational requirements, renewal dates, fees and dues).
- Explain the financial policies and procedures of the practice to patients and/or responsible parties.
- Collect payments, copayment, coinsurance, or deductible owed by the patient at the time of service.
- Provide fee schedules for the patients.
- Advocate for the patient (e.g., patient navigator).