



NCET Detailed Test Plan

This detailed test plan reflects the results of a national job analysis study that determined the critical job competencies to be tested by NCCT in this certification examination. It contains 125 scored items, 25 unscored pretest items and candidates are allowed three (3) hours to complete the examination.

Number of Scored Items

Content Categories

15

Content Category: Patient Comfort and Safety

- Properly identify the patient receiving the procedure.
- Document patient medical history and current medications.
- Obtain patient vital signs.
- Explain the ECG procedure to the patient.
- Provide patient instruction regarding the Holter monitor.
- Follow HIPAA regulations regarding Protected Health Information (PHI).

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Content Category: ECG Placement Techniques

- Exercise infection control standard precautions.
- Prepare and position the patient for testing (e.g., gowning, skin preparation).
- Place electrodes on the patient appropriately for the test (e.g., stress, Holter, telemetry).
- Use additional resources as needed for specific diagnostic tests (e.g., blood pressure cuff, treadmill, Holter monitor).
- Adapt technique to patients with special considerations (e.g., amputee, right sided heart, pacemaker).
- Adapt technique for special populations (e.g., age appropriate, isolation, special needs).
- Instruct the patient regarding behavior throughout the test.

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Content Category: ECG Recording and Interpretation

- Provide ongoing monitoring of the patient during stress testing.
- Capture and record ECG tracings on a patient.
- Identify and measure waveform characteristics (e.g., P waves, T waves, QRS complexes).
- Identify and measure waveform quality (e.g., amplitude, symmetry, direction).
- Reconcile atrial and ventricular rates (e.g., PVC, PAC).
- Distinguish regular and irregular rhythms.

- Recognize basic rhythm classifications and rates
 - Sinus
 - Atrial
 - Ventricular
 - Blocks
 - Other (e.g., pacemaker spike, PEA, asystole)
 - Initiate response to life threatening arrhythmias per protocol.
 - Monitor patient vital signs and tolerance during testing.
 - Prepare the report for the physician.
 - Transmit the report to the patient's EMR/EHR or chart.
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20***Content Category: ECG Troubleshooting and Maintenance***

- Identify recording errors (e.g., improper tracing, standardization mark out of range, improper lead placement).
- Identify causes of artifact (e.g., somatic tremor, patient movement, wandering baseline, AC interference, seizures).
- Account for patients with special considerations (e.g., clothing, shunts, piercings, scars, pacemaker/AICD-failure to pace).
- Correct artifacts and recording errors (e.g., paper placement, lead reversal, power loss, remove electronic devices, calm the patient).
- Ensure proper grounding of the ECG machine.
- Check battery charge and condition.
- Clean and store the ECG machine after use.