

National Certified Patient Care Technician Detailed Test Plan

Effective: January 2025
EX-0506

NCPCT 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. This certification examination is comprised of 92% standard, 4-option multiple-choice items and 8% alternative items (e.g., Drag and Drop, Multi-Select, Hotspot).

Number of Scored Items Content Categories

25

1 Infection Prevention and Safety

- 1 Disinfect non-disposable medical equipment.
- 2 Prevent the spread of healthcare-acquired (nosocomial) infections.
- 3 Use personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves, gown, mask).
- 4 Follow CDC Standard Precautions and Transmission-Based Precautions (e.g., airborne, contact, and droplet).
- 5 Comply with OSHA standards for health care workers (e.g., bloodborne pathogens, SDS, needlesticks).
- 6 Apply precautions in biohazardous waste handling and disposal.
- 7 Follow the appropriate course of action for medical follow-up of a post-exposure incident (e.g., needlestick, splash).
- 8 Monitor and maintain patients' environment to ensure patient safety (e.g., fall precautions, general housekeeping, call lights).
- 9 Perform first aid, BLS, and rapid response procedures.
- 10 Respond to work setting emergency situations (e.g., fire, biological hazard).

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2 Patient Intake and Care

- 1 Follow the correct procedures for identifying patients.
- 2 Obtain patient permission before performing procedures.
- 3 Obtain patient vital signs (e.g., blood pressure, temperature, oxygen).
- 4 Assist with oxygen therapy (e.g., nasal cannula).
- 5 Assist with patient-administered nebulizer treatments.
- 6 Insert and remove peripheral IVs.
- 7 Assist patients with bathing (e.g., bed bath, shower).
- 8 Assist patients with grooming (e.g., hair care, nails, oral care).
- 9 Assist patients with feeding.
- 10 Provide ostomy and catheter care.
- 11 Monitor, measure, and record intake/output (e.g., hydration, diet, urine, emesis).
- 12 Provide care for patients with gastric and NG tubes.
- 13 Perform oral suctioning (e.g., bulb, Yankauer).
- 14 Prepare supplies for the patient (e.g., toilet hat, linens).
- 15 Visually inspect patient specimens for abnormalities (e.g., stool, emesis).
- 16 Report changes in the patient's condition (e.g., level of consciousness, blood pressure).

- 17 Identify and report changes in skin integrity (e.g., decubitus ulcers, bruising, edema).
- 18 Observe dressings for wound condition changes (e.g., sanguineous, serous, purulent).
- 19 Provide skin care to prevent skin breakdown (e.g., moisture barrier, repositioning, heel protectors).
- 20 Perform simple, non-medicated dressing changes.
- 21 Assist with wound care and dressing changes.
- 22 Adapt care to patients with special needs (e.g., physically/mentally impaired).
- 23 Perform passive and active range of motion.
- 24 Assist patients with restorative rehabilitation activities (e.g., bladder and bowel retraining, ambulation, feeding).
- 25 Assist with immobility support/splint applications (e.g., elastic bandage, wrist splint).
- 26 Assist patients with orthotic or prosthetic devices (e.g., hearing aids, dentures, AFO).
- 27 Apply anti-embolitic devices (e.g., TED hose, AVIs, SCD).
- 28 Assist the patient with coughing and deep-breathing exercises (e.g., spirometry).
- 29 Collect laboratory specimens per protocol (e.g., urine, stool, culture swabs).
- 30 Document medically-relevant aspects of patient care in the patient record.
- 31 Assist with preoperative care (e.g., skin prep).
- 32 Assist with postoperative care.
- 33 Perform postmortem care.
- 34 Assist with admission, discharge, and transfer of patients.

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3 Phlebotomy

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A Orders and Equipment Selection

- 1 Select appropriate venipuncture equipment for collection.
- 2 Select appropriate capillary equipment for collection.
- 3 Identify additives/anticoagulants added to evacuated blood collection tubes (by stopper color).
- 4 Follow guidelines for inversion and fill levels.

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B Collections and Troubleshooting

- 1 Anticipate pre-analytical errors and complications.
- 2 Determine appropriate site selection for blood collection (e.g., based upon varied patient conditions).
- 3 Prepare site for blood collection (e.g., capillary, venipuncture, bacterial culture).
- 4 Identify the CLSI-recommended order of draw for blood samples collected by a specified method.
- 5 Take precautions for patients with special needs (e.g., mastectomy, IVs, bleeding disorders).
- 6 Perform venipuncture on patients of all ages.
- 7 Perform capillary punctures by fingerstick and heelstick.
- 8 Respond to complications of phlebotomy (e.g., hematoma, excessive bleeding, other).
- 9 Perform post-phlebotomy care.

4 ECG**7 A Patient Comfort and Safety**

- 1 Educate patient regarding the ECG procedure (e.g., Holter monitor, 12-lead, telemetry).
- 2 Prepare and position the patient for testing (e.g., gowning, skin preparation).
- 3 Place electrodes on the patient appropriately for the test (e.g., 12-lead, Holter, telemetry).
- 4 Adapt technique to patients with special considerations (e.g., amputee, pacemaker).

7 B Rhythm Recognition

- 1 Identify and measure waveform characteristics (e.g., P waves, T waves, QRS complexes).
- 2 Recognize atrial and ventricular abnormalities (e.g., PVC, PAC).
- 3 Distinguish between regular and irregular rhythms.
- 4 Recognize cardiac rhythm classifications and rates (e.g., sinus, atrial, ventricular, asystole).

7 C ECG Troubleshooting

- 1 Account for patients with special considerations (e.g., hair, pacemaker/AICD).
- 2 Identify causes of artifact (e.g., somatic tremor, AC interference, seizures).
- 3 Identify recording errors (e.g., improper tracing, standardization mark out of range, improper lead placement).
- 4 Correct artifacts and recording errors (e.g., lead reversal, remove electronic devices, calm the patient).

5 Law and Ethics

- 1 Adhere to the Patient's Bill of Rights (AHA).
- 2 Demonstrate compliance with laws related to Protected Health Information (PHI) (e.g., HIPAA).
- 3 Recognize legal responsibilities and the scope of practice for the patient care technician.
- 4 Comply with regulations governing reportable incidents (e.g., needle stick, falls, errors).
- 5 Respond appropriately to observations of unethical or unlawful practice.
- 6 Report and document patient neglect and abuse.
- 7 Report and document negligence and incompetence (e.g., substance abuse).

Essential Knowledge Base:**Apply a working understanding of these integrated concepts:**

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| 1 | Infection control | 9 | Blood collection procedures |
| 2 | Patient safety | 10 | Non-blood collection procedures |
| 3 | Patient assessment | 11 | Specimen handling and transporting procedures |
| 4 | Activities of daily living | 12 | ECG procedures |
| 5 | Patient education | 13 | Rhythm recognition |
| 6 | Anatomy and physiology | 14 | Artifacts and recording errors |
| 7 | Medical terminology | 15 | Medical equipment maintenance |
| 8 | First aid | 16 | Medical equipment operation |
| | | 17 | HIPAA |