



National Certified Patient Care Technician 2025 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	125	125
Total # unscored pretest items	25	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	
Professional Responsibilities	24		
Direct Patient Care	37	Patient Intake and Care	38
Safety and Infection Control	25	Infection Prevention and Safety	25
Phlebotomy	20	Phlebotomy	26
ECG	19	ECG	21
		Law and Ethics	15

Deleted Tasks:

- 1A2 Comply with standards governing reliability and accuracy in point of care lab testing
- 1A3 Comply with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA)
- 1A4 Comply with laws related to scope of employment (e.g., immunizations, background checks, drug screens, certifications)
- 1A9 Comply with federal and state health legislation and regulations (e.g., Joint Commission, State Board of Nursing)
- 1A10 Respond to non-verbal communications
- 1A11 Adapt professional communication to meet the needs of the individual (e.g., age, developmental level, language barriers, patient condition, etc.)
- 1A12 Use therapeutic communication when providing care to patients (e.g., open ended questions, active listening, empathy)
- 1A13 Provide emotional support for patients and their families
- 1A14 Help patients and families to cope with grief, death, and dying
- 1A15 Adapt care to account for cultural diversity or spiritual beliefs
- 1A16 Communicate with other health care professionals using proper medical terminology
- 1A17 Receive and direct incoming communications to appropriate team members (e.g., phone, pages, call lights)

Deleted Tasks (continued):

- 1A18 Explain general facility policies to patients and family members
- 1A20 Prioritize and organize tasks to be performed
- 1A22 Observe the chain of command in a healthcare environment
- 1A25b Report substance abuse involving staff or patients
- 1A25c Report negligence and incompetence
- 2A3 Follow patient isolation procedures (e.g., radiation, reverse, TB)
- 2A8 Instruct patients and family members regarding infection control
- 2A14 Sterilize non-disposable medical equipment
- 3A3 Use a pain scale to report patient pain levels
- 3A4 Perform height, weight, and BMI measurements (e.g., standing, wheelchair, or bed scales)
- 3A11 Provide continuous monitoring for patients who meet the criteria for one-to-one observation
- 3A15 Prioritize care based on patient needs and condition
- 3A16 Follow the individualized plan of care ordered for the patient
- 3A38 Assist the patient with taking prescribed self-administered medications
- 3A48 Perform or assist with enemas
- 4B5 Assist patients in performing capillary punctures
- 4B10 Take corrective actions for problems with test requests, specimen transport, or specimen processing
- 4B15 Calculate volume requirements to avoid causing iatrogenic anemia
- 5A4 Use additional resources as needed for specific diagnostic tests (e.g., blood pressure cuff, treadmill, Holter monitor)
- 5B1 Provide ongoing monitoring of the patient during ECG procedures
- 5B2 Capture and record ECG tracings
- 5B8 Monitor patient vital signs and tolerance during testing
- 5B9 Prepare the report for the appropriate healthcare team member
- 5C5 Operate the ECG machine per manufacturer's and facility's protocol