



- PNCB is serious about upholding test security.
- Don't risk the consequences—for yourself or other nurses.
- [Learn about PNCB's Ethics in Testing](#)

# Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner – Primary Care (CPNP-PC®) Exam Detailed Content Outline



## Description of the Specialty

This exam is for the pediatric nurse practitioner (PNP) who has graduated from a master's degree or DNP degree program or post-graduate certificate program for primary care pediatric nurse practitioners (PNPs). The Primary Care CPNP® role is designed to meet the specialized physiologic and psychological needs of children in the areas of health maintenance and promotion, and assessment and management of disease processes. CPNP-PCs provide pediatric primary care in a variety of health care settings including, but not limited to, private practice, ambulatory and school-based clinics, the home, hospital, and subspecialty clinics.

## Credential

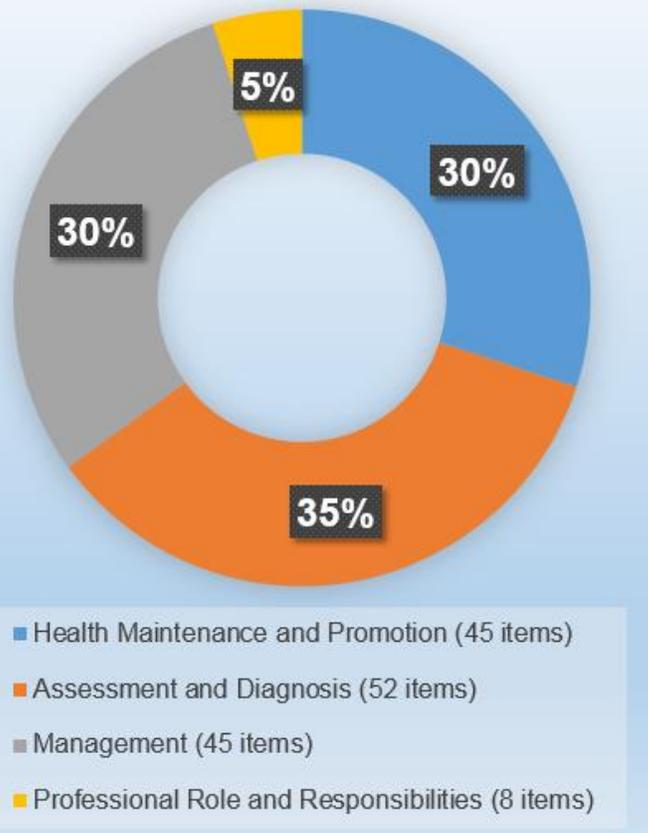
A PNP who passes this exam is called a Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and earns the CPNP credential. CPNPs are entitled to use this credential as long as they actively maintain their certification. Primary care CPNPs may choose to use the credential CPNP-PC. Both are acceptable by the PNCB. Your employer or state board may have a global acronym that you are expected to use in your practice.

## Exam Details

This exam is based on US standards of practice. See [www.pncb.org](http://www.pncb.org) for eligibility requirements. The exam has 150 scored and 25 unscored items (included to determine statistical performance). The 150 scored items are distributed among four content areas (see chart).

## How to use this Content Outline

The CPNP-PC exam content outline (also known as a test blueprint) is an essential tool as you study for your exam. It describes all of the subject areas covered by the exam and the number of questions per category. PNCB certification exams are comprehensive exams, so be sure to study all areas of the content outline, including areas with which you may not be familiar. This exam tests your ability to apply knowledge and use critical thinking skills to determine one best answer among answer choices.



# CPNP-PC CONTENT OUTLINE

**Total**

## **I. Health Maintenance and Promotion**

**30%**  
(45 items)

- A. Partner with patients/caregivers to support growth and development from infancy to young adulthood**
- B. Provide patients/caregivers with age/developmentally appropriate anticipatory guidance**
- C. Recommend and prescribe immunizations according to current CDC guidelines**
- D. Educate about illness prevention and early warning signs of pediatric illness and emergencies**
- E. Advise patients/caregivers about age appropriate injury prevention and safety including but not limited to:**
  - 1. Environmental exposure (e.g., animal and insect, weapons, toys, smoking, sun exposure, poisoning, disaster)
  - 2. Risk taking behavior (e.g., piercings, tattoos, sexual activity)
  - 3. Social situations (e.g., date rape, strangers, bullying, violence)
  - 4. Sports and recreation (e.g., concussion, helmet use, water safety)
  - 5. Vehicle safety (e.g., automobile, boat, car seats, distracted driving)
- F. Counsel about age-appropriate social, behavioral, and mental health concerns (e.g., substance abuse, social media use, grief and loss, and sexual orientation/LGBTQ)**

## **II. Assessment and Diagnosis**

**35%**  
(52 items)

- A. Growth and Development**
  - 1. Evaluate and interpret growth parameters
  - 2. Perform developmental surveillance
- B. History and Physical Examination**
  - 1. Obtain history of present illness
  - 2. Obtain a comprehensive health history for new patients
  - 3. Complete an interval history for established patients
  - 4. Perform a review of systems
  - 5. Perform a complete physical examination
- C. Diagnostic Testing and Screening**
  - 1. Order and interpret office/clinic based screening tests
  - 2. Order and interpret diagnostic laboratory tests
  - 3. Order and interpret the results of diagnostic imaging tests
  - 4. Select, utilize, and interpret developmental, behavioral and mental health screening and assessment tools
- D. Analyzing Information**
  - 1. Integrate health history and physical examination findings into the plan of care
  - 2. Assimilate findings from screening and diagnostic testing into plan of care
  - 3. Utilize information from consulting services in the plan of care
  - 4. Incorporate information obtained via multiple modalities such as telephone, email/text messaging, and/or patient portals into the plan of care
- E. Diagnosis**
  - 1. Develop and prioritize differential diagnoses
  - 2. Establish a diagnosis based on evaluation of patient data

# CPNP-PC CONTENT OUTLINE

**Total**

## III. Management

**30%**  
(45 items)

### A. Child and Caregiver Counseling and Education

1. Provide condition-specific counseling and education, including treatment options
2. Educate about benefits and potential adverse reactions of pharmacological interventions
3. Discuss non-pharmacological interventions
4. Counsel regarding the threshold for seeking follow-up care
5. Review the risks of non-adherence to recommended treatment

### B. Therapeutic Interventions

1. Prescribe pharmacologic agents
2. Recommend the use of over-the-counter pharmacologic agents
3. Order or recommend non-pharmacologic treatments for the management of symptoms
4. Discuss use of complementary and alternative therapies as appropriate
5. Utilize communication techniques and brief cognitive interventions, including motivational interviewing and joint decision-making, to develop health care goals and facilitate change

### C. Procedures

1. Perform procedures in accordance with diagnostic guidelines and plan of care (see page 4)
2. Initiate life-saving techniques in response to urgent or emergent situations

### D. Collaboration and Referral

1. Collaborate with other health professionals to meet patient care needs
2. Refer to specialists as indicated for evaluation, counseling, and/or treatment
3. Refer children, adolescents or caregivers to community resources as indicated
4. Contact child protective services to report suspected maltreatment or neglect

### E. Care Coordination

1. Facilitate patient and family-centered care for children of all ages with acute and chronic conditions
2. Coordinate care for pediatric patients and families with special needs
3. Provide guidance about and coordinate transition to adult care

### F. Evaluation and Follow-up

1. Evaluate the plan of care and modify based on patient response or outcomes
2. Establish a plan for follow-up care

## IV. Professional Role and Responsibilities

**5%**  
(8 items)

### A. Leadership and Evidence-based Practice

1. Serve as a clinical resource for other health care professionals
2. Critically evaluate and synthesize research and apply findings to clinical practice
3. Identify the need for and participate in research and/or quality monitoring to improve clinical outcomes
4. Develop, implement, and/or modify clinical practice guidelines

### B. Practice Management

1. Document patient encounters in a manner which supports applicable diagnostic and procedure codes
2. Utilize appropriate billing and coding to facilitate reimbursement

### C. Legal and Ethical Issues

1. Practice in accordance with regulatory guidelines (e.g., HIPAA, scope of practice)
2. Incorporate cultural awareness and inclusiveness into all aspects of practice
3. Maintain ethical practices
4. Prepare and maintain materials for licensure, credentialing and privileging
5. Identify and respond to adverse and sentinel events to promote a culture of patient safety

**Exam Content:      MEDICATION NAMES**

Many brand names, while still discussed commonly in practice, are no longer available in brand name form. PNCB strives to only include brand names of medications that are fully available. When medication names are needed or cited in an examination question, PNCB will typically list both generic and brand names when appropriate.

All brand and generic names referenced are correct and available to the best of our knowledge at the time of the publication of the examination form. Each question included in PNCB examinations [is reviewed multiple times](#), with different subject matter expert groups, who assess and validate content (including medication names) for accuracy. This process precedes, and is in addition to, rigorous, routine statistical analysis on every scored item.

Exam-takers should know common, generic medication names applicable to the primary care pediatric nurse practitioner role.

**Exam Content:      CLINICAL PROBLEMS**

Items that address a specific condition will be represented within the exam, by volume, according to the following *prioritized listing*:

Clinical Problem	
1	Head, Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat
2	Dermatology
3	Allergy
4	Gastroenterology
5	Developmental/Behavioral/Mental Health
6	Pulmonology
7	Musculoskeletal
8	Nutrition
9	Infectious Disease
10	Urology/Nephrology
11	Neurology
12	GYN, Reproductive Health, Sexual Identity
13	Cardiology
14	Endocrinology
15	Pain
16	Hematology/Oncology
17	Environmental Health/Toxicology
18	Immunology/Rheumatology
19	Genetics

## Exam Content: PROCEDURES

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Exam content will include a focus on the following procedures and interventions (*listed alphabetically*):

Procedures
Audiometry
Cerumen removal
Collect skin and body fluid specimens
Fluorescein staining
Incision and drainage
Rapid tests (e.g., rapid strep)
Reduction of nurse maid's elbow
Removal of foreign body
Removal of sutures and staples
Sexually transmitted infection testing
Spirometry/pulmonary function test
Umbilical cord cauterization
Visual acuity
Wart removal



**As an exam candidate, you agree not to share information about test questions and answers in any way.**

**Learn about PNCB’s Ethics in Testing**

Below are examples of acceptable and prohibited (unethical) discussions/behaviors. Because PNCB offers multiple certification exam types (CPN, CPNP-AC, CPNP-PC, PMHS), the content topic areas below may not represent your exam.

<b>Acceptable</b>	<b>Unethical</b>
<i>“Make sure you brush up on growth and development since you work in a hospital now.”</i>	<i>“Make sure you remember when a baby starts pointing at objects.”</i>
<i>“Expect a lot of respiratory content. It’s the number 1 clinical problem on the exam content outline.”</i>	<i>“What kinds of respiratory issues were on your exam?”</i>
<i>“Renal issues are a clinical problem listed on the content outline. Be prepared for those since we don’t see that on our unit.”</i>	<i>“I had a question about acute renal failure, potassium levels, and arrhythmias. Make sure you look that up.”</i>
<i>“I forgot skin, wounds, and/or burns would be on the exam.”</i>	<i>“I didn’t expect a burn question asking about fluid replacement. I think the right answer had to do with capillary refill.”</i>

**If in doubt, don’t discuss.**

**Discussing exam questions can lead to serious consequences such as:**

- Prohibiting future exam attempts for the people involved
- Stopping an in-progress exam
- Suspending an exam for all testers
- Delaying release of score results beyond advertised timeframe
- Invalidating exam scores
- Suspending or revoke certification
- Taking legal action against individuals

Learn more from PNCB’s [Ethics in Testing: A Personal Responsibility Toolkit](#).