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## PEDIATRIC NURSING CERTIFICATION BOARD

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### Practice Tests

#### **Purpose, Rationale, and Standards**

Consistent with NCCA Accreditation Standards, PNCB does not offer review or study courses for its certification exams, but it does offer practice tests.

The practice tests provide the user an opportunity to engage with questions written in the same style as exam questions, and to experience the questions in an online, computer-based format with a chance to review a rationale (available in most offerings) for why the options for each question are correct or incorrect.

Practice tests are not required or endorsed as a preferred method of preparation for the certification exam. In several locations, a disclaimer on the PNCB website alerts candidates to the purpose and the limitations for PNCB practice tests. PNCB may also offer a list of external resources that are not endorsed.

PNCB also understands the need for a 'firewall' between exam content and practice test content and uses volunteer roles and job descriptions to define what is acceptable. Exam questions and practice test questions are developed with distinct methods and environments.

#### **Products Offered**

PNCB offers Practice Tests for each of its exams:

- Certified Pediatric Nurse (CPN)
- Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner – Primary Care (CPNP-PC)
- Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner – Acute Care (CPNP-AC)
- Pediatric Primary Care Mental Health Specialist – (PMHS)

#### **Development & No-conflict of Interest**

Practice test content is developed using a variety of methods with volunteers or consultants who have signed the PNCB Volunteer Agreement:

- Content is written by volunteer item writers who have been formally trained at an Item Writing Workshop and are not also on a Form Review Committee or Exam Committee. These remote item writers help PNCB build a pool of pretest content.
- Content can also be gleaned from retired items formerly written for CE modules and which are then updated with a relevant textbook reference.
- Content can also be written by a consultant who holds the credential and contracts with PNCB to write practice test content but is not also involved with writing certification exam questions.
- Questions for practice tests are not written by active members of any Exam Committee.
  - Further, Exam Committee service must be fully concluded by any member to be considered for other PNCB volunteer opportunities such as writing content for practice tests or serving on a Form Review committee.
  - Only after 12 months of no PNCB volunteer service can volunteers who write exam or practice test content contribute elsewhere (e.g., review books, study courses) with no conflict.
- A new or updated practice test is launched in close conjunction with the publishing of an updated exam content outline following a routine job task analysis.

- Currency checks are performed annually for the items in each practice test to ensure accuracy and currency over time. This effort also includes updating any reference citations to newer editions internally if/when they are available.

### **Staff involvement**

- Staff of PNCB do not write or author practice test content. They also do not mentor volunteers who are writing practice content which could be perceived as a conflict.
- With small staff size, any staff members who are involved with both exam items and practice tests have limitations with practice test content; their involvement with practice tests is strictly limited to editorial review. Their “inside information” related to exam content provides no advantage to creation of the practice test modules since their work is limited to editing.

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