CMSRN®

certified medical-surgical registered nurse

Exam Blueprint

Effective May 15, 2023

Presented by:

MSNCB

medical-surgical nursing certification board

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CMSRN Exam Content Outline

The following table identifies the percentage and number of questions from each domain that will appear on the CMSRN exam as of May 15, 2023.

Domain	Percentage Weight	Number of Items on Test
Patient/Care Management	32%	40
Holistic Patient Care	15%	19
Elements of Interprofessional Care	17%	21
Professional Concepts	15%	19
Nursing Teamwork and Collaboration	21%	26
Total	**100%**	**125**

Domain	Percentage Weight	Number of Items on Test
Patient/Care Management	**32%**	**40 Items**

Patient Safety	1.	Nursing process - assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, evaluation
	2.	Patient safety protocols (e.g., skin, falls, restraints, rounding, suicide)
	3.	Risk factors (e.g., pharmacological, environment, equipment, demographics)
	4.	Patient safety culture (e.g., near miss reporting, "just culture", "speak up", high accountable organizations)
	5.	Care bundles (e.g., checklist, algorithms)
	6.	Patient safety assessments and reporting (e.g., abuse, human trafficking, social determinants)
	7.	Risk assessment methods (e.g., Root Cause Analysis [RCA], Failure Mode and Effects Analysis [FMEA], safety rounds, safety huddles)
Infection Prevention	1.	Universal and transmission-based precautions
	2.	Infection control practices and standards
	3.	Current evidence-based practice for infection control and prevention procedures
	4.	Antimicrobial stewardship (e.g., surgical scrub, antibiotics, probiotics)
Medication Management	1.	Safe medication administration practices (e.g., interaction, adverse reaction, intravenous therapy)
	2.	Patient medication education
	3.	Polypharmacy
	4.	Safe drug management and disposal (e.g., stewardship, home medication management)
	5.	Advanced access devices (i.e., ports, central lines, epidurals)
	6.	Financial implications to patients
Pain Management	1.	Chronic and/or acute pain management (e.g., pharmacological, non-pharmacological, multimodal)
	2.	Patient pain management expectations
	3.	Patient advocacy
Non-Pharmacological Interventions	1.	Non-pharmacological interventions (e.g., repositioning, heat or cold)
	2.	Complementary and alternative therapies (e.g., acupuncture, aromatherapy)
Surgical/Procedural Nursing Management	1.	Pre- and post-procedural unit standards (e.g., consent, timeout, frequent monitoring)
	2.	Pertinent potential complications and management
	3.	Scope of practice related to procedures (e.g., moderate/procedural sedation)
	4.	Supplies, instruments, and equipment
Nutrition	1.	Individualized nutritional needs (e.g., malnutrition, disease processes, complications, cultural)
	2.	Nutrition administration modalities (e.g., enteral, parenteral)
	3.	Resources for alternate nutrition administration (e.g., speech consultation, dietary consultation)
	4.	Indications for alternate nutrition administration

Domain		Percentage Weight	Number of Items on Test
Holistic Patient Care		**15%**	**19 Items**
Patient-Centered Care	1. Patient-centered care (e.g., active listening, communication preferences, family involvement, health goals.		
	2. Resources for patient-centered care		
	3. Patient advocacy		
	4. Patient satisfaction management (e.g., grievances, concerns regarding practices, second opinion, service recovery)		
Diversity and Inclusion	1. Cultural and linguistic needs (e.g., sign, oral, and written languages)		
	2. Cultural and linguistic resources (e.g., translated materials, interpreter services)		
	3. Implicit bias		
Education of Patients and Families	1. Health maintenance and disease prevention		
	2. Health literacy		
	3. Teaching methods		
Health Promotion	1. Health promotion goals		
	2. Resources available for patient/family		
	3. Health information to meet patient needs		
Palliative/End-of-Life Care	1. Palliative or end-of-life patient/caregiver resources (e.g., hospice, spiritual, cultural, physical)		
	2. End-of-life preferences (e.g., advance directives, code status)		
	3. Post-mortem care		
	4. Organ donation process		
	5. Regulatory requirements for reporting death (e.g., coroner's case)		

Domain		Percentage Weight	Number of Items on Test
Elements of Interprofessional Care		**17%**	**21 Items**
Nursing Process/Clinical Judgement Measurement Model	1. Nursing process - assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, evaluation		
	2. Strategies to individualize care		
Interprofessional Collaboration	1. Role within the interdisciplinary team (e.g., teamwork, communication skills)		
	2. Interprofessional rounding		
	3. Care coordination		
	4. Collaborative problem solving		
Care Coordination and Transition Management	1. Community resources		
	2. Interdisciplinary collaboration integration methods (e.g., discharge planning, mobility, physical therapy)		
	3. Health history assessment from multiple sources		
	4. Discharge procedures (e.g., medication reconciliation)		
	5. Patient/family centered care		
	6. Care coordination and transition		
	7. Interprofessional roles and responsibilities		
	8. Continuum of care		
	9. Patients at risk for readmissions		
	10. Social determinants of health		
	11. Quality patient outcome measures		
Documentation	1. Documentation of patient care		
	2. Electronic health records		
	3. Downtime procedures		
	4. Coaching for documentation performance improvement		
Technology	1. Technology, equipment use, and troubleshooting		
	2. Technology trends in health care		
	3. Nursing informatics		

Domain		Percentage Weight	Number of Items on Test
Professional Concepts		**15%**	**19 Items**
Communication	1. Chain of command		
	2. Communication skills (e.g., active listening, verbal, non-verbal, written, conflict resolution, mediation)		
	3. Information sharing (e.g., Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation [SBAR], hand-off, closed-loop, check- back, read-back, huddle, verbal orders, bedside report, interdisciplinary)		
	4. Communication barriers (e.g., need for interpreter/translator, physical and cognitive limitations)		
	5. De-escalation techniques (e.g., verbal intervention, calm communication)		
Critical Thinking	1. Time management and prioritization of care		
	2. Crisis situations and resources (e.g., rapid response team, deteriorating patients, early warning systems)		
	3. Crisis management		
	4. Critical thinking (e.g., self-regulation, problem solving, analysis, interpretation, inference)		
Healthy Practice Environment	1. Workplace safety (e.g., physical, emotional, environmental)		
	2. Nurse resiliency and well-being		
	3. Unintended consequences (e.g., moral distress, moral injury, compassion fatigue, burnout)		
	4. Resource allocation (e.g., staffing, equipment)		
	5. Peer accountability		
Scope of Practice and Ethics	1. Scope of practice and code of ethics for nurses per local and regional nursing bodies (e.g., Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements, Standard V of the AMSN Scope and Standards, local governing Scope of Practice)		
	2. Patients' rights and responsibilities		
	3. Professional reporting and resources (e.g., ethics, scope of practice, unsafe practice)		
	4. Policies, procedures, regulatory and licensure requirements, standards of practice, and applicable state, federal, and local laws		
Quality Management	1. Evidence-based guidelines for nursing sensitive indicators		
	2. Quality standards and policies		
	3. Continuous quality and process improvement		
	4. Nursing professional practice model		
	5. Adverse event reporting		
	6. Patient customer experience based on data results (e.g., surveys, value-based purchasing)		
	7. Service recovery		
	8. Project development		
Evidence-Based Practice and Research	1. Legislative and licensure requirements		
	2. Evidence-based practice principles		
	3. Research process		

Domain		Percentage Weight	Number of Items on Test
Nursing Teamwork and Collaboration		**21%**	**26 Items**
Delegation and Supervision	1. Delegation and/or supervision practices		
	2. Scope of practice (e.g., licensed and unlicensed team members)		
	3. Prioritization skills (e.g., disease process)		
	4. Budgetary considerations (e.g., supplies, staffing, fiscal efficiency)		
Career Development Relationships	1. Professional engagement		
	2. Mentoring and coaching resources		
	3. Reflective practice		
	4. Roles and responsibilities		
	5. Coaching and learning theories		
	6. Professional empowerment		
	7. Orientation planning and preceptor best practices		
	8. Career development resources (e.g., education, training)		
Professional Development	1. Professional nursing practice and individual competencies		
	2. Professional behaviors (e.g., network, participate in professional organization)		
	3. Clinical judgement		
	4. Peer review methods		
	5. Educational needs assessment		
Leadership	1. Regulatory and compliance standards		
	2. Organizational structure		
	3. Shared decision-making		
	4. Nursing philosophy		
	5. Leadership models		
	6. Nursing care delivery systems		
	7. Change management (e.g., Awareness, Desire, Knowledge, Ability, Reinforcement [ADKAR])		
	8. Recruitment and retention		
	9. Employee engagement		
	10. Staff advocacy		
	11. Conflict management		
	12. Financial stewardship		
Disaster Planning and Management	1. Emergency procedures		
	2. Hospital incident command structure		