



REPORT OF THE PRACTICE ANALYSIS STUDY ADULT-GERONTOLOGY NURSE PRACTITIONERS

**Conducted on behalf of the
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
Certification Program**



Conducted by
Professional Examination Service

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Executive Summary

In 2016, Professional Examination Service (ProExam) conducted a practice analysis of adult-gerontology nurse practitioners for the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program (AANPCP), the sponsor of the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (A-GNP) Examination. The exam is designed to assess the knowledge base required to function in the advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) role of nurse practitioner, with an adult-gerontology population focus.

Practice analysis is the primary basis by which a professional association, or credentialing agency, establishes and defends the content validity of its credentialing initiatives. In keeping with best practices, AANPCP conducts practice analysis studies every 4 to 5 years to support ongoing development of content-valid certification examinations for A-GNPs. Prior to this initiative, the most recent A-GNP practice analysis was conducted in 2011–2012.

The practice analysis was implemented in two phases. In the first phase, a Practice Analysis Task Force (Task Force) of subject-matter experts met to update the 2011-2012 description of domains of practice, tasks performed, knowledge required, and procedures performed by NPs in adult-gerontology practice. Task Force members were highly experienced nurse practitioners representing a variety of practice settings and geographic regions. The work of the Task Force was augmented through an independent peer review process. Reviewers were selected to represent diverse perspectives and to augment the expertise and diversity already represented in the Task Force. The Task Force refined the description of practice based on feedback from the reviewers.

In the second phase, an online validation survey was administered to verify the practice description updated by the Task Force and to gather data to be used in creating a revised test content outline for the A-GNP certification examination. Rating scales were devised for each element of the description. Survey participants rated the time spent in and the importance of the domains, and the importance and frequency of performance of the tasks. They also rated the frequency with which they used each knowledge base and performed each procedure, and the importance of each knowledge base and procedure to newly-credentialed A-GNPs. The survey sample comprised the entire population of A-GNPs certified by AANPCP (N=5,609). Six hundred eight A-GNPs completed the survey for an overall response rate of 11.3%.

The Task Force convened to review and discuss the results of the survey and determine whether sufficient evidence existed to warrant the inclusion of each task, knowledge area, and procedure in the test content outline. Based on decision rules and the subject-matter expertise of the Task Force, all elements of the description of practice were retained for inclusion in an updated content outline that will guide future versions of the A-GNP examination until the next practice analysis is performed. Survey data were used to calculate percentage weights for the distribution of test questions across domains of practice and patient age ranges. The percentage weights support examination construction and the validated tasks, knowledge areas, and procedures support item writing. Adoption of the new content outline will permit the ongoing construction of relevant, content-valid examinations for A-GNPs.