



# Practice Analysis Report

American Academy of Nurse Practitioners  
Certification Board

Emergency Nurse Practitioner

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Submitted to:



# Executive Summary

This report describes the methodology and procedures used to conduct a practice analysis and develop the exam specifications for the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board (AANPCB) Emergency Nurse Practitioner (ENP) certification examination.

The three major activities that comprise the practice analysis process described in this report are as follows:

1. **Practice Analysis Committee Meeting** – A gathering of subject matter experts (SMEs) to discuss and develop a description of the scope of practice
2. **Practice Analysis Survey** – A large-scale survey of practitioners not involved with the SME panel to validate the task and knowledge statements developed by the committee
3. **Development of Examination Specifications** – The development of an Examination Content Outline by the committee based on the results of the survey

Several practitioners were assembled by AANPCB to serve as subject matter experts (SMEs). The individuals selected represent a wide variety of work-related characteristics such as years of experience, work setting, geographic location, and areas of specialty. This helps in developing a scope of practice that is reflective of the roles and responsibilities of the job role and is relatively free from bias. By analyzing the experiences and expertise of current practitioners, the results from the practice analysis become the basis of a validated assessment that reflects the competencies required for competent performance.

The practice analysis process utilized in this study yields exam specifications that accurately reflect the scope of practice, allowing for the development of fair, accurate, and realistic assessments of candidates' readiness for certification. The resultant Examination Content Outline (Appendix E) indicates a 135-item examination with content distribution requirements at the competency area (content domain) level as well as according to patient condition classification.

# Appendix E

## Exam Content Outline

### Specifications 1 -Tasks

<b>1</b>	<b>Medical Screening</b>	<b>21</b>
A	Perform a focused history and physical exam based on chief complaint	
B	Establish patient acuity level to determine need for rapid intervention	
<b>2</b>	<b>Medical Decision Making / Differential Diagnoses</b>	<b>33</b>
A	Identify differential diagnoses based on the greatest likelihood of occurrence	
B	Prioritize differential diagnoses, considering risk of morbidity or mortality	
C	Evaluate diagnostic studies based on the differential diagnoses	
<b>3</b>	<b>Patient Management</b>	<b>48</b>
A	Rapidly intervene to resuscitate/stabilize patient	
B	Prescribe appropriate pharmacologic agents	
C	Initiate non-pharmacologic therapeutic interventions	
D	Perform diagnostic and therapeutic procedures/skills	
E	Consult with other healthcare providers to optimize patient management	
F	Re-evaluate for changes in patient condition	
G	Prioritize and manage multiple patients of varying acuity simultaneously	
<b>4</b>	<b>Transitions of Care</b>	<b>22</b>
A	Determine appropriate and timely patient disposition including admission, discharge, observation, or transfer as appropriate	
B	Formulate a specific disposition plan with appropriate resource utilization	
C	Engage patient and/or caregiver to effectively coordinate transitions of care	
<b>5</b>	<b>Professional Practices</b>	<b>11</b>
A	Integrate diverse, equitable, and inclusive practices into patient management	
B	Manage unique needs of vulnerable populations	
C	Demonstrate knowledge of EMTALA regulations	
D	Adhere to professional, ethical, quality, safety, and regulatory/legal standards in emergency care	

## Specifications 2 - Patient Condition

Patient Condition / Type of Emergency	Items
1. Thoracic-Respiratory Disorders	14
2. Cardiovascular Disorders	15
3. Cutaneous Disorders	7
4. Abdominal & Gastrointestinal Disorders	17
5. Musculoskeletal Disorders (Non-traumatic)	10
6. Renal/Genitourinary Disorders	9
7. Neurological Disorders	8
8. Ear, Eye, Nose, Oral/Dental & Throat Disorders	11
9. Traumatic Disorders	11
10. Psychobehavioral Disorders	8
11. Obstetrics and Gynecology	7
12. Environmental and Toxicological Disorders	4
13. Systemic Infections and Hematologic and Immune System Disorders	7
14. Endocrine, Metabolic, and Nutritional Disorders	7

## Other Classifications

Knowledge Areas
1. Anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology
2. Medical screening examination
3. Focused health history and physical
4. Differential diagnosis/Medical decision making
5. Diagnostic studies (e.g., EKG, radiology, body fluid)
6. Diagnostic/therapeutic procedures
7. Pharmacological therapies
8. Integrative therapies
9. Consultation and collaboration
10. Patient and family education and counseling
11. Resource utilization
12. Documentation (e.g., coding, billing)
13. Professional, ethical, quality, and regulatory/legal issues
14. Pre-hospital and EMS
15. Health equity
16. Vulnerable populations
17. Principles of epidemiology, population health, and social determinants of health
18. Safety and harm reduction
19. Disaster and mass casualty management
20. Resuscitation and stabilization
21. Prioritization
22. Disposition
23. Forensics

## Procedures

<b>1</b>	<b>Airway Techniques</b>
A	Intubation
B	Airway adjuncts
C	Surgical airway
D	Mechanical ventilation
E	Non-invasive ventilatory management
F	Ventilatory monitoring
<b>2</b>	<b>Resuscitation</b>
A	Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
B	Neonatal resuscitation
C	Pediatric resuscitation
D	Post-resuscitative care
E	Blood, fluid, and component therapy
F	Arterial catheter insertion
G	Central venous access
H	Intraosseous infusion
I	Defibrillation
<b>3</b>	<b>Anesthesia and Acute Pain Management</b>
A	Local anesthesia
B	Regional nerve block
C	Procedural sedation and analgesia
<b>4</b>	<b>Abdominal and Gastrointestinal Diagnostic and Therapeutic Procedures</b>
A	Anoscopy
B	Excision of thrombosed hemorrhoid
C	Gastrostomy tube replacement
D	Paracentesis
E	Esophageal/gastric balloon tamponade (e.g., Minnesota/Blakemore/Linton tube)
<b>5</b>	<b>Cardiovascular and Thoracic</b>
A	Cardiac pacing
B	Cardioversion
C	ECG interpretation
D	Pericardiocentesis
E	Thoracentesis
F	Needle/Tube thoracostomy
<b>6</b>	<b>Cutaneous</b>
A	Escharotomy
B	Incision and drainage
C	Trephination, subungual
D	Wound closure techniques

<b>7</b>	<b>Head, Ear, Eye, Nose, and Throat</b>
A	Control of epistaxis
B	Drainage of peritonsillar abscess
C	Laryngoscopy
D	Lateral canthotomy
E	Slit lamp examination
F	Tonometry
G	Tooth stabilization
H	Corneal foreign body removal
I	Drainage of hematoma (auricular, septal)
<b>8</b>	<b>Musculoskeletal</b>
A	Arthrocentesis
B	Compartment pressure measurement
C	Fracture/Dislocation immobilization techniques
D	Fracture/Dislocation reduction techniques
E	Spine immobilization techniques
F	Fasciotomy
<b>9</b>	<b>Nervous System</b>
A	Lumbar puncture
<b>10</b>	<b>Obstetrics and Gynecology</b>
A	Pelvic examination
B	Precipitous delivery (including complications)
C	Perimortem c-section
D	Sexual assault examination
E	Bartholin cyst incision and drainage
<b>11</b>	<b>Psychobehavioral</b>
A	Psychiatric screening examination/medical stabilization
B	Violent patient management/Restraint
<b>12</b>	<b>Renal and Urogenital</b>
A	Suprapubic catheter
B	Testicular detorsion
<b>13</b>	<b>Other Diagnostic and Therapeutic Procedures</b>
A	Foreign body removal
B	Collection and handling of forensic material
C	Point of care ultrasound
D	Interpretation of diagnostic imaging (e.g., ultrasound, MRI, CT, radiographs)



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