



**BOARD OF CERTIFICATION  
FOR EMERGENCY NURSING™**  
Excellence. Achievement. Impact.

## Certified Pediatric Emergency Nurse (CPEN) Examination Content Outline

**Total Items**

<b>1. Triage Process</b>	<b>20</b>
A. Emergency Intake	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visual assessment / Pediatric Assessment Triangle (PAT)</li> <li>2. Triage priority based on acuity and resources</li> <li>3. Immunization status</li> <li>4. Isolation concerns</li> <li>5. Behavioral status and risk for harm</li> <li>6. Sexual orientation and gender identity</li> <li>7. Cultural and language considerations</li> </ul>	
B. Emergency preparedness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Decontamination</li> <li>2. Mass casualty</li> </ul>	
<b>2. Assessment</b>	<b>25</b>
A. History and physical	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Primary and secondary survey</li> <li>2. Developmental milestones</li> <li>3. Children with special needs</li> <li>4. Caregivers' perception of child's baseline and current status</li> <li>5. Family functioning and dynamics (e.g., coping strategies, support systems)</li> </ul>	
B. Pain	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Developmentally appropriate pain assessment and reassessment</li> <li>2. Non-pharmacological and pharmacological interventions</li> </ul>	
<b>3. System-Focused Emergencies</b>	<b>56</b>
A. Respiratory	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Foreign body</li> <li>2. Congenital conditions (e.g., stenosis, malacia, cystic fibrosis)</li> <li>3. Upper Airway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Infections (e.g., croup, epiglottitis)</li> <li>b. Trauma (e.g., inhalation injuries, tracheal disruption)</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Lower Airway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Infections (e.g., bronchiolitis, pneumonia)</li> <li>b. Reactive airway disease/asthma</li> <li>c. Trauma (e.g., pneumothorax, hemothorax, pulmonary contusion)</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. Respiratory failure and/or arrest</li> <li>6. Oxygen administration (e.g., low-flow, high-flow)</li> <li>7. Airway adjuncts (e.g., tracheostomy, endotracheal tube, supraglottic)</li> </ul>	




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<b>B. Cardiovascular</b>		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Infections</li> <li>2. Congenital heart defects</li> <li>3. Rhythm disturbances</li> <li>4. Shock</li> <li>5. Cardiac arrest</li> <li>6. Circulatory support (e.g., vascular access, ECMO, LVAD)</li> <li>7. Trauma (e.g., tamponade, blunt cardiac injury)</li> </ol>	
<b>C. Neurological</b>		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Infections</li> <li>2. Congenital conditions (e.g., hydrocephalus, arteriovenous malformation)</li> <li>3. Headache, migraine, and tumor</li> <li>4. Shunt dysfunction</li> <li>5. Seizure</li> <li>6. Stroke</li> <li>7. Trauma (e.g., traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury)</li> </ol>	
<b>D. Gastrointestinal</b>		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Foreign body (e.g., button battery, magnets)</li> <li>2. Infections (e.g., gastroenteritis, appendicitis, pancreatitis)</li> <li>3. Obstructions (e.g., pyloric stenosis, intussusception, volvulus, constipation)</li> <li>4. Nutrition (e.g., failure to thrive, formula intolerance, obesity, TPN)</li> <li>5. Chronic conditions (e.g., IBD, GERD, congenital)</li> <li>6. Trauma (e.g., liver injury, spleen injury, bowel injury)</li> </ol>	
<b>E. Genitourinary and Obstetrical (OB)</b>		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Infections (e.g., UTI, STI, PID, epididymitis, pyelonephritis)</li> <li>2. Genitourinary emergencies (e.g., testicular torsion, priapism, phimosis, ovarian torsion)</li> <li>3. OB emergencies (e.g., ectopic pregnancy, emergent delivery)</li> <li>4. Trauma (e.g., abrasion, straddle injury, renal contusion)</li> </ol>	
<b>F. Maxillofacial, Ocular, and Ear/Nose/Throat (ENT)</b>		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Foreign body</li> <li>2. Infections (e.g., peritonsillar abscess, mastoiditis, periorbital cellulitis)</li> <li>3. Hemorrhage</li> <li>4. Trauma (e.g., dental injury, facial fracture, globe rupture)</li> </ol>	

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G. Musculoskeletal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Infections (e.g., osteomyelitis, septic arthritis)</li> <li>2. Congenital conditions (e.g., osteogenesis imperfecta, muscular dystrophy, spina bifida)</li> <li>3. Trauma (e.g., fractures, amputations, compartment syndrome)</li> </ol>	
H. Integumentary	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Infections (e.g., cellulitis, abscess)</li> <li>2. Rash (e.g., hives, petechiae, infestations)</li> <li>3. Trauma (e.g., foreign body, avulsions, lacerations, degloving)</li> </ol>	
I. Hematology/Oncology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hematology (e.g., sickle cell disease, bleeding or clotting disorders)</li> <li>2. Oncology (e.g., fever and neutropenia, tumor lysis syndrome)</li> </ol>	
J. Endocrine/Metabolic	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Congenital disorders (e.g., CAH, inborn errors of metabolism)</li> <li>2. Acquired disorders (e.g., diabetes)</li> </ol>	
<b>4. Special Considerations</b>		<b>25</b>
A. Neonatal Emergencies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Infections</li> <li>2. Jaundice (e.g., hyperbilirubinemia)</li> <li>3. Thermoregulation</li> <li>4. Fluid-electrolyte imbalance</li> <li>5. Newborn resuscitation</li> </ol>	
B. Behavioral Health Emergencies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mood disorders (e.g., depression, anxiety)</li> <li>2. Self-injury (e.g., cutting, eating disorders)</li> <li>3. Suicidal and homicidal ideations</li> <li>4. Aggressive behavior</li> </ol>	
C. Maltreatment Emergencies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Emotional neglect/abuse</li> <li>2. Physical neglect/abuse</li> <li>3. Sexual abuse or assault</li> <li>4. Human trafficking</li> </ol>	
D. Environmental	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Temperature-related emergencies</li> <li>2. Chemical exposures (e.g., cleaning agents, organophosphates)</li> <li>3. Vector borne illnesses/Envenomation (e.g., rabies, ticks, bites)</li> <li>4. Trauma (e.g., burns, electrical injuries)</li> </ol>	

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E. Toxicology		
1. Ingestion and poisoning (intentional and unintentional)		
2. Carbon monoxide poisoning		
3. Drug interactions/withdrawal		
F. Communicable diseases		
1. Childhood diseases (e.g., measles, mumps, pertussis, chicken pox)		
2. Multi-drug resistant organisms (e.g., MRSA, VRE)		
3. Emerging infectious diseases		
<b>5. Multi-System Considerations</b>		<b>12</b>
A. Submersion injuries		
B. Sepsis		
C. Anaphylaxis		
D. Post-resuscitative care		
E. Procedural sedation		
<b>6. Professional Issues</b>		<b>12</b>
A. Legal Issues		
1. Consent for treatment		
2. Preservation of forensic evidence		
3. Government regulations (e.g., EMTALA, HIPAA, mandatory reportable situations)		
4. Risk management (e.g., impaired nurse, drug diversion, resource allocation)		
B. Nursing Practice		
1. Workplace violence (e.g., interprofessional, patient/family)		
2. Stress management (e.g., burnout, compassion fatigue, PTSD)		
3. Culture of safety (e.g., collaboration, blame-free environment)		
4. Delegation of tasks to assistive personnel		
5. Performance and process improvement		
C. Patient and Family Considerations		
1. Discharge planning		
2. End-of-life and palliative care		
3. Patient safety and injury prevention		
4. Patient satisfaction		
5. Transfer and transitions of care		
<b>Total</b>		<b>150</b>