



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

Certified Emergency Nurse (CEN) Examination Content Outline

Total Items

1. Cardiovascular Emergencies	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Acute coronary syndrome B. Aneurysm and dissection C. Cardiopulmonary arrest D. Dysrhythmias E. Endocarditis, Myocarditis, Pericarditis F. Heart failure G. Hypertension H. Pericardial tamponade I. Peripheral vascular disease (e.g., venous and arterial) J. Thromboembolic disease K. Cardiovascular trauma L. Cardiogenic shock and obstructive shock 	
2. Respiratory Emergencies	17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Aspiration B. Asthma C. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease D. Infections E. Inhalation injuries F. Obstruction G. Pleural effusion H. Pneumothorax I. Noncardiac pulmonary edema J. Pulmonary embolus K. Respiratory distress syndrome L. Respiratory trauma M. Pulmonary hypertension N. Croup 	
3. Neurological Emergencies	17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Neurological disorders B. Headache C. Increased intracranial pressure D. Meningitis E. Seizure disorders F. Stroke G. Transient ischemic attack H. Head and spinal cord trauma I. Neurogenic shock 	



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4. Gastrointestinal Emergencies	14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Appendicitis B. Peritonitis C. Bowel perforation D. Cyclic vomiting syndrome E. Bleeding F. Cholecystitis G. Cirrhosis H. Diverticulitis I. Esophageal varices J. Foreign bodies K. Hepatitis L. Intussusception M. Obstructions N. Pancreatitis O. Gastrointestinal trauma P. Gastrointestinal disorders 	
5. Genitourinary, Gynecology, and Obstetrical Emergencies	10
A. Genitourinary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Genitourinary infections 2. Priapism 3. Renal calculi 4. Testicular torsion 5. Genitourinary trauma 6. Urinary retention 7. Renal failure 	
B. Gynecology	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dysfunctional uterine bleeding 2. Gynecological infections 3. Ovarian disorders 4. Sexual assault and battery 5. Gynecological trauma 	
C. Obstetrical	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abruptio placenta 2. Ectopic pregnancy 3. Emergent delivery 4. Hemorrhage 5. Hyperemesis gravidarum 6. Neonatal resuscitation 	



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7. Placenta previa 8. Postpartum infection 9. Preeclampsia, eclampsia, and HELLP syndrome 10. Preterm labor 11. Threatened/spontaneous abortion 12. Obstetric trauma 13. Uterine rupture	
6. Mental Health Emergencies	13
A. Aggressive and violent behavior B. Anxiety disorders C. Depressive disorders D. Homicidal and suicidal ideation E. Intentional overdose and ingestions F. Psychotic disorders G. Bipolar disorders	
7. Medical Emergencies	15
A. Allergic reactions and anaphylaxis B. Hematologic disorders C. Electrolyte and fluid imbalance D. Endocrine disorders E. Immunocompromise F. Sepsis G. Hypovolemic and distributive shock H. Substance use and abuse I. Withdrawal syndrome	
8. Musculoskeletal and Wound Emergencies	11
A. Musculoskeletal	
1. Amputation 2. Compartment syndrome 3. Ligament tendon injuries 4. Fractures 5. Dislocations 6. Inflammatory conditions 7. Osteomyelitis	
B. Wound	
1. Avulsions and degloving injuries 2. Wound infections 3. Injection injuries	



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4. Lacerations	
5. Penetrating injuries	
6. Wound bleeding	
9. Head, Eye, Ear, Nose, Throat Emergencies	10
A. Head	
1. Facial nerve disorders	
2. Maxillofacial infections	
3. Maxillofacial trauma	
B. Eye	
1. Abrasions	
2. Burns	
3. Foreign bodies	
4. Increased intraocular pressure	
5. Ocular infections	
6. Retinal artery occlusion	
7. Retinal detachment	
8. Ocular trauma	
9. Ulcerations and keratitis	
C. Ear	
1. Acute vestibular dysfunction	
2. Foreign bodies	
3. Infections	
D. Nose	
1. Foreign bodies	
2. Epistaxis	
E. Throat	
1. Epiglottitis	
2. Peritonsillar abscess	
10. Environment and Toxicology Emergencies, and Communicable Diseases	13
A. Environment	
1. Burns	
2. Chemical exposure	
3. Electrical injuries	
4. Submersion injury	
5. Temperature-related emergencies	
6. Animal bites	



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B. Toxicology	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acids and alkalis 2. Carbon monoxide 3. Cyanide 	
C. Communicable Diseases	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>C. Difficile</i> 2. Vaccine-preventable diseases (e.g., measles, mumps, rubella, pertussis, chicken pox, diphtheria) 3. Respiratory viruses 4. Multi-drug resistant organisms 5. Tuberculosis 6. Hemorrhagic fevers 7. Sexually transmitted infections 	
11. Professional Issues	12
A. Prioritization	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Triage 2. Mass casualty 3. Patient throughput 	
B. Legal and ethical issues	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End-of-life and palliative care 2. Forensic evidence collection 3. Federal regulations 4. Patient consent for treatment 5. Continuity of care 6. Cultural humility 7. Abuse and neglect 8. Impaired nurse and drug diversion 9. Workplace violence 	
Total	150

Supporting Tasks

1 Cardiovascular

- 1 Administer banked blood products
- 2 Administer fibrinolytic (thrombolytic) infusions
- 3 Apply physiologic principles when caring for patients with cardiovascular emergencies
- 4 Apply physiologic principles when caring for patients with shock and multi-system emergencies
- 5 Assess functioning of a ventricular assist device
- 6 Assess pacemaker/implanted cardioverter defibrillator functioning
- 7 Assist with insertion of arterial line
- 8 Assist with open thoracotomy
- 9 Assist with pericardiocentesis
- 10 Assist with placement of transvenous pacemaker
- 11 Auscultate heart sounds
- 12 Determine mechanism of injury
- 13 Identify patients who are candidates for fibrinolytic (thrombolytic) agents
- 14 Identify signs and symptoms related to cardiovascular emergencies
- 15 Identify signs and symptoms related to shock and multi-system emergencies
- 16 Initiate external cardiac pacemaking
- 17 Initiate intraosseous access
- 18 Initiate monitoring and interpret ECG rhythm strips
- 19 Institute measures to control hemorrhage
- 20 Interpret injury, infarction, or ischemia in the 12-lead ECG
- 21 Manage intraosseous infusions
- 22 Manage targeted temperature post cardiac arrest
- 23 Manage the patient in shock
- 24 Monitor arterial line pressure
- 25 Monitor central venous pressure readings
- 26 Obtain right-sided ECG
- 27 Perform automated external defibrillation
- 28 Perform cardioversion/defibrillation
- 29 Perform massive transfusion
- 30 Prepare for cardiac invasive procedures
- 31 Use length-based resuscitation tape

2 Respiratory

- 32 Assist with and/or administer a nebulizer treatment
- 33 Assist with endotracheal intubation
- 34 Assist with rapid sequence intubation
- 35 Auscultate lung sounds
- 36 Care for patient on a mechanical ventilator
- 37 Evaluate the patient's response to oxygen therapy
- 38 Identify indications of use for BiPAP, CPAP and high flow nasal cannula
- 39 Initiate oxygen therapy interventions
- 40 Insert nasopharyngeal airway device

- 41 Insert oropharyngeal airway device
- 42 Interpret end-tidal CO2 results via capnography and colormetric device
- 43 Interpret results of arterial blood gas studies
- 44 Manage chest tube and drainage system
- 45 Manage patients with dual lumen airway device
- 46 Manage patients with laryngeal mask airway
- 47 Manage patients with surgical airway
- 48 Manually ventilate the patient
- 49 Measure peak expiratory flow rate
- 50 Suction airway

3 Neurological

- 51 Address seizure precautions
- 52 Administer fibrinolytic (thrombolytic) therapy for ischemic stroke
- 53 Administer NIHSS
- 54 Apply spinal immobilization
- 55 Assess and monitor Glasgow coma scale
- 56 Assist with ICP monitoring
- 57 Assist with lumbar puncture
- 58 Manage blood pressure for neurological emergencies
- 59 Manage ventilation of patients with head injuries

4 Gastrointestinal

- 60 Assist with gastroccult/hemocult cards
- 61 Assist with interventions for esophageal bleeding
- 62 Assist with paracentesis
- 63 Auscultate bowel sounds
- 64 Facilitate focused abdominal sonogram for trauma
- 65 Insert and irrigate gastric tubes
- 66 Perform colostomy care
- 67 Perform enemas

5 Genitourinary, Gynecology, and Obstetrical

- 68 Assist with emergency delivery of fetus
- 69 Assist with neonatal resuscitation following emergency delivery
- 70 Assist with genital exams
- 71 Collect forensic evidence from sexual assault victims
- 72 Insert urinary catheter
- 73 Massage uterine fundus postpartum
- 74 Obtain fetal heart tones
- 75 Perform bladder irrigation
- 76 Perform bladder scan
- 77 Position a patient in labor with a prolapsed cord
- 78 Prepare vaginal and/or cervical specimens for laboratory studies

6 Mental Health

- 79 Application and management of restraints
- 80 Manage the patient with drug abuse and/or overdose
- 81 Perform de-escalation techniques
- 82 Provide a therapeutic environment for psychiatric patients

7 Medical

- 83 Access subcutaneous ports
- 84 Assist with procedural sedation
- 85 Initiate isolation precautions
- 86 Manage PICC line patency
- 87 Obtain orthostatic vital signs
- 88 Pain management
- 89 Perform blood glucose monitoring
- 90 Perform point-of-care lab testing
- 91 Perform post-mortem care
- 92 Perform massive transfusion

8 Musculoskeletal and Wound

- 93 Application of immobilization devices to injured extremities
- 94 Apply a traction splint
- 95 Assist with incision and drainage
- 96 Assist with reduction of orthopedic injury
- 97 Assist with suture repair
- 98 Demonstrate crutch-walking techniques
- 99 Perform wound care
- 100 Prepare and manage patients undergoing joint aspiration

9 Head, Eye, Ear, Nose, Throat

- 101 Assist in management of epistaxis
- 102 Irrigate ear canals
- 103 Perform eye irrigation
- 104 Perform visual acuity examination