Exam Objective: To measure the overall level of clinical knowledge for the Certified Nursing Assistant in an acute care setting.

Knowledge Domains - CNA Acute Care Exam

- Care of Special Populations: 23%
- Documentation: 13%
- Infection Control: 21%
- Mathematical Conversions: 10%
- Promotion of Health/Direct Patient Care: 15%
- Role and Responsibilities & Scope of Practice: 10%
- Safety: 10%
I. Care of Special Populations

A. Knowledge of provisions of care related to the elderly population.
   1. Primary cause of death in elderly
   2. Physical changes related to the elderly population

B. Knowledge of care related to the dying patient.
   1. Post mortem care
   2. Stages of dying
   3. Caring for patients with DNR orders

C. Knowledge of diseases related to the elderly population, including but not limited to:
   1. Alzheimer’s
   2. Diabetes
   3. Stroke

D. Knowledge of principles of nutritional diet plans for provision of care, including but not limited to:
   1. Low sodium diet
   2. Diets based on total caloric intake (such as 1500 cal diet)
   3. Clear liquid diet
   4. Heart healthy/low fat diet
   5. NPO status

E. Knowledge of effective communication techniques for communicating with patients, families, and co-workers.

F. Knowledge of principles of assisting with spiritual needs of the patient.
II. Documentation

A. Knowledge of standards regarding the documentation of care and treatment within the Certified Nursing Assistant scope of practice.

B. Knowledge of basic medical terminology, units of measurement, and acronyms used in health care settings.

C. Knowledge of principles for reporting incidents to appropriate personnel.

III. Infection Control

A. Knowledge of standard precautions and correct procedures for following those standards.

B. Knowledge of isolation precautions.
   1. Purpose of isolation procedures
   2. Types of isolation (droplet, contact, & airborne)
   3. Common diseases associated with isolation precautions and their routes of transmission

C. Knowledge of common diseases associated with isolation precautions.
   1. Routes of transmission
   2. Diagnostic tests related to communicable diseases
   3. Common abbreviations used for diseases/conditions associated with isolation precautions

D. Knowledge of personal protective equipment (PPE) used in the healthcare setting.
   1. Proper use of PPE
   2. Proper selection of PPE based on isolation status
3. Proper selection of PPE for standard precautions
4. Hand washing procedures related to proper use of PPE
5. Proper sequence for putting on PPE
6. Procedures for removing and discarding used PPE

IV. Mathematical Conversions
A. Knowledge of basic math calculations
   1. Calculating intake and output
   2. Conversion calculations (such as milliliters to ounces, ounces to milliliters)
B. Knowledge of determining time intervals
   1. Ability to calculate time intervals
   2. Determine start and stop times
   3. Military time recognition

V. Promotion of Health/Direct Patient Care
A. Knowledge of feeding techniques and basic safety measures related to feeding (Heimlich maneuver, aspiration precautions).
B. Knowledge of nonverbal communication principles to promote patient rapport.
C. Knowledge of appropriate nutrition for health promotion of the patient related to their disease processes.
D. Knowledge of principles of range of motion exercises for health promotion.
E. Knowledge of how to measure, monitor, and record vital signs (blood pressure, heart rate, temperature, respirations)
   1. Correct procedures for obtaining vital signs
   2. Normal and abnormal parameters for vital signs
   3. Correct procedures for abnormal findings
   4. Correct documentation of vital signs

F. Knowledge of proper methods used for moving and turning patients, including but not limited to:
   1. Proper use of body mechanics to maintain health and safety of self
   2. Common patient positions (example Sim’s, Semi-fowlers)

G. Knowledge of proper procedures for bathing a patient.

H. Knowledge of senses used in the observation of patients.

I. Knowledge of sign and symptoms of common medical conditions.

J. Knowledge of signs and symptoms of a patient in pain, and effective communication and reporting of those findings.

K. Knowledge of correct procedures for performing tests to collect specimens, such as, but not limited to, urine, stool, and sputum.

VI. Role and Responsibilities & Scope of Practice

A. Knowledge of scope of practice for a CNA in the healthcare setting.

B. Knowledge of maintaining patient environment to promote care of the patient and reporting abnormal findings as appropriate.
C. Knowledge of role and responsibilities for a CNA in the healthcare setting, including but not limited to:

1. Roles and responsibilities during codes

2. Recognizing patient or environmental issues or abnormal findings and reporting to the registered nurse as appropriate
   a. Pain assessment
   b. Vital signs
   c. Glucose results

D. Knowledge of regulatory standards with a basic level of understanding for:

1. Joint Commission
2. HIPAA
3. Privacy Laws
4. Advanced Directives
5. Patient Rights

VII. Safety

A. Knowledge of appropriate patient identifiers.

B. Knowledge of definitions and principles of patient rights (negligence, assault, battery, malpractice).

C. Knowledge of principles and safe use of patient restraints.

D. Knowledge of principles of fire safety and related acronyms.

E. Knowledge of safety principles and therapeutic communication in dealing with a patient with suicidal ideations.
F. Knowledge of care of environment to promote patient safety.
   1. Sharps safety
   2. Padding rails
   3. Environmental spills

G. Knowledge of principles of fall risk prevention.
   1. Risk assessment related to falls
   2. Sensory impairments related to falls
   3. Care of patient after fall
   4. Care of environment to prevent falls

H. Knowledge of safety techniques to assist patients during ambulation.