Exam Objective: To measure the overall level of clinical knowledge in the area of the Progressive Care Unit
Each question in this assessment is categorized by a cognitive level that the test taker would likely use to respond. These categories are:

- **Recall**: The ability to recall or recognize specific information;
- **Application**: The ability to comprehend, relate or apply knowledge to new or changing situations;
- **Analysis**: The ability to analyze and synthesize information, determine solutions and/or evaluate the usefulness of a solution.

I. **Cardiovascular**

A. Knowledge of anatomy and physiology of cardiovascular system.
B. Knowledge of pathophysiology and disease processes related to the cardiovascular system, such as third degree heart block, CHF, atrial fibrillation, unstable angina, endocarditis, right-sided heart failure, left-sided heart failure, jugular vein distention, abdominal aortic aneurysm, heart murmur, hypovolemic shock, etc.
C. Knowledge of ACLS guidelines and ability to carry out interventions, including knowledge of ACLS medications, indications and dosages.
D. Knowledge of signs and symptoms
E. of bleeding at sheath site and appropriate nursing interventions to treat.
F. Knowledge of nursing treatments and interventions for patients who present with sudden onset of chest pain.
G. Knowledge of normal and abnormal assessment findings for post operative cardiac patients, including signs and symptoms of complications.
H. Knowledge of normal and abnormal assessment findings for post cardiac procedure patients, including signs and symptoms of complications.
I. Knowledge of EKG’s, including measurements, analysis and interpretation.
J. Knowledge of normal and abnormal laboratory values that are cardiac specific.
K. Knowledge of cardiac pacing, temporary or permanent, including assessment and nursing interventions.
L. Knowledge of nursing interventions and treatment options for sudden onset of symptomatic atrial fibrillation.
M. Knowledge of cardioversion and anticoagulant therapy.
II. Endocrine/Gastrointestinal

A. Knowledge of pathophysiology and disease processes related to endocrine system:
   1. Diabetes
   2. Diabetic Ketoacidosis
   3. SIADH

B. Knowledge of principles of diabetic diet.

C. Knowledge of signs and symptoms of hyperglycemia and hypoglycemia and nursing interventions used in the treatment of each.

D. Knowledge of the effects of different types of insulin and oral anti-diabetic agents.

E. Knowledge of nursing interventions for patients with altered nutritional intake (TPN Administration).

F. Knowledge of diagnostic procedures such as ERCP, endoscopy, colonoscopy, etc., including the pre- and post-procedure care for each.

G. Knowledge of nursing interventions for GI bleed, small bowel obstruction, C. difficile infection, hepatic failure, pancreatitis, etc.

III. General Knowledge

A. Knowledge of medical terminology, acronyms, and abbreviations commonly used in the PCU.

B. Knowledge of blood and blood product administration, including recognizing signs and symptoms of a blood transfusion reaction.

C. Knowledge of infection control principles, PPE, types of isolation precautions, hand washing protocols, etc.

D. Knowledge of wound assessment and documentation.

E. Knowledge of potential safety issues and appropriate patient care interventions, such as fall prevention, suicide precautions, seizure precautions, etc.

F. Knowledge of when and how to use appropriate transfer equipment (gait belt, lift, walker, etc.)
G. Knowledge of protocol for non-behavioral restraints.
H. Knowledge of appropriate pain scale for individual patient, such as FLACC scale, Wong Baker Faces scale, 0-10 number scale, etc.
I. Knowledge of patient education including discharge instructions.
J. Knowledge of how to evaluate patient’s understanding of education.
K. Knowledge of how to collect, label, and transport a variety of specimens (stool, blood, urine, including 24-hour urine collection, etc.).
L. Knowledge of how to provide education and information to patients/families in a variety of areas (diet, medications, diabetes, wounds, isolation precautions, etc.) and how to assess their understanding.
M. Knowledge of how to manage a variety of drains and tubes, including JP drain, nasogastric tube, indwelling urinary catheter, etc.
N. Knowledge of communication techniques (SBAR, therapeutic, conflict resolution, interpreter, etc.)
O. Knowledge of procedures for referrals, documentation, informed consent, time out, etc.

IV. Multisystem/Renal

A. Knowledge of signs and symptoms of different types of shock, including hypovolemic, septic, etc.
B. Knowledge of pathophysiology and disease processes of the renal system, including chronic kidney disease.
C. Knowledge of acid-base balance.
D. Knowledge of medications used to augment renal function.
E. Knowledge of policies and procedures for dialysis/hemodialysis.
F. Knowledge of signs and symptoms of acute kidney injury, retroperitoneal bleeding, peritonitis, etc.
G. Knowledge of catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI) and central-line associated blood stream infections (CLABSI), including signs and symptoms and common medical and nursing interventions.
V. Neurological/Behavioral

A. Knowledge of pathophysiology and disease processes related to neurological system, such as CVA, subdural hematoma, dementia, etc.
B. Knowledge of how to assess and recognize changes in neurological status, including the use of NIH Stroke scale.
C. Knowledge of how to care for patients experiencing/at risk for seizures.
D. Knowledge of how to care for patients at risk for suicide.
E. Knowledge of assessing for alcohol withdrawal (CIWA scale).

VI. Pharmacology

A. Knowledge of medications commonly used on the Progressive Care Unit.
B. Knowledge of medication administration principles and their effects on patients.
C. Knowledge of how to manage multiple lines/drips.
D. Knowledge of anticoagulant, fibrinolytic and thrombolytic agents.
E. Knowledge of types of medication titrated based on CIWA.
F. Knowledge of agents used for conscious sedation.
G. Knowledge of reversal agents to medications used for conscious sedation.
H. Knowledge of how to perform basic math calculations to calculate medication dosage, IV drip rates, IV flow rates, etc.

VII. Professional/Ethical issues

A. Knowledge of how to make appropriate referrals to community resources to meet patient needs.
B. Knowledge of HIPAA regulations and compliance.
C. Knowledge of policies and procedures for narcotic waste, co-signing insulin, order clarification, etc.
D. Knowledge of how to maintain personal safety.
E. Knowledge of patient rights under the Patient Self-Determination Act.
F. Knowledge of how to delegate appropriately.
VIII. Pulmonary

A. Knowledge of pulmonary system, including pathophysiology and disease processes commonly seen in the PCU setting such as COPD, pneumonia, pulmonary edema, etc.

B. Knowledge of signs and symptoms of pulmonary/post-surgical complications and nursing interventions to treat complications such as pulmonary embolism, pneumothorax, etc.

C. Knowledge of chest tube care and the nursing interventions related to chest tubes, including signs and symptoms of air leak, dressing changes, collection chamber, etc.

D. Knowledge of suction system as it relates to chest tube and supplies to keep at bedside.

E. Knowledge of signs and symptoms of respiratory distress, such as shortness of breath, stridor, Cheyne-Stokes respiration, Kussmaul breathing, etc.

F. Knowledge of how to interpret ABG results and implement the correct nursing intervention based on results.

G. Knowledge of how to perform oral and nasopharyngeal suctioning.

H. Knowledge of multiple oxygen delivery systems:
   1. Nasal Cannula
   2. Face mask
   3. Non-rebreather
   4. CPAP
   5. BIPAP