

BLUEPRINT FOR THE HOSPICE PALLIATIVE CARE CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION

STRUCTURAL VARIABLES			
1. Examination Length and Format	Approximately 170 multiple choice questions.		
2. Question Presentation	Independent Questions	40-50% of questions	
	Case-based Questions	50-60% of questions	
3. Cognitive Ability – Levels of Questions	Knowledge/Comprehension	20-30% of questions	
	Application	50-60% of questions	
	Critical Thinking	15-25% of questions	
4. Competency Categories	Care of the Person and Family	12-15% of questions	
	Pain Management	15-20% of questions	
	Other Symptom Management	20-25% of questions	
	End of Life Planning / Dying and Death Management	10-15% of questions	
	Loss, Grief, and Bereavement Support	8-12% of questions	
	Interdisciplinary / Collaborative Practice	7-10% of questions	
	Education	5-8% of questions	
	Professional Issues and Advocacy	8-10% of questions	
CONTEXTUAL VARIABLES			
5. Client Age and Gender		Male	Female
	0 to 18 years	3-7% of questions	3-7% of questions
	19 to 64 years	20-25% of questions	20-25% of questions
	65+ years	20-25% of questions	20-25% of questions
6. Client Culture	Questions are included that measure awareness, sensitivity, and respect for different cultural values, beliefs, and practices, without introducing stereotypes.		
7. Client Health Situation	In the development of the Hospice Palliative Care Certification Examination, the client is viewed holistically. The client health situations reflect a cross-section of diseases within the continuum of advanced illness and address physical, emotional, social, and spiritual aspects of care which includes the individual, family, and caregiver.		
8. Health Care Environment	It is recognized that Hospice Palliative Care nursing is practiced in a variety of settings. The health care environment is specified only where it is required for clarity or in order to provide guidance to the examinee.		