

Cardiac-Vascular Nursing (CV-BC™)

Board Certification Examination

Test Content Outline

Effective Date: December 5, 2024

This test content outline lists the knowledge and skills identified as being important for the role, as determined by the most recent role delineation study. The number of questions in each of the major categories of the scored portion of the examination are shown below.

Note: The examples in parentheses are not all-inclusive and do not indicate importance but are simply to provide clarification and guidance for studying.

There are **150 questions** on the examination. Of these, **125 are scored questions** and **25 are pretest questions** that are not scored. Performance of pretest questions is evaluated and used to determine if they will be used in the scored portion of the examination. The pretest questions cannot be distinguished from those that will be scored, so it is important for a candidate to answer all questions. A candidate's score, however, is based solely on the 125 scored questions. Performance on pretest questions does not affect a candidate's score.

CONTENT DOMAIN	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS	PERCENTAGE
I. Assessment and Diagnosis	27	22%
II. Planning and Implementation	44	35%
III. Evaluation and Modification	23	18%
IV. Patient and Community Education	31	25%
TOTAL	125	100%

27 questions; 22%

I. Assessment and Diagnosis

A. Knowledge

1. Anatomy and physiology
2. Pathophysiology
3. Nursing diagnosis identification

B. Skill

1. Patient Interview (eg, history, chief complaint, social determinants of health)
2. Cardiac-vascular assessment techniques and tools (eg, Doppler, stroke scale)
3. Data collection and interpretation (eg, diagnostic tests, laboratory results, cardiac rhythms)

44 questions; 35%

II. Planning and Implementation

A. Knowledge

1. Evidence-based practice guidelines (eg, ACC/AHA guidelines, quality measures)
2. Scope and standards of practice (eg, cardiovascular nursing)
3. Legal and ethical considerations (eg, informed consent, advance directives)
4. Invasive/non-invasive procedures (eg, peripheral, cardiac, structural)
5. Surgeries (eg, coronary/vascular bypass, transplant)
6. Pharmacologic therapies
7. Non-pharmacologic and complementary therapies
8. Risk-reduction measures (eg, venous thromboembolism prophylaxis, infection prevention)

B. Skill

1. Prioritization and care coordination (eg, interdisciplinary teams, discharge planning)
2. Interventions (eg, targeted temperature management, cardioversion)

23 questions; 18%

III. Evaluation and Modification

A. Knowledge

1. Expected Outcomes
2. Drug interaction (eg, drug-drug, drug-food)

B. Skill

1. Recognition and treatment of adverse reactions and events (eg, heparin-induced thrombocytopenia, hypotension)
2. Recognition and treatment of urgent conditions (eg, pseudoaneurysm, hypertensive crisis)
3. Recognition and treatment of emergent conditions (eg, pulmonary emboli, stroke)

31 questions; 25%

IV. Patient and Community Education

A. Knowledge

1. Cardiac-vascular risk factors (eg, ethnicity, smoking)
2. Chronic disease management
3. Cardiac-vascular education topics (eg, procedures, medications)
4. Self-management strategies (eg, daily weights, blood pressure logs)
5. Community resources (eg, cardiac rehabilitation, anticoagulation clinic)

B. Skill

1. Individualized education planning and implementation (eg, addressing barriers, health literacy)
2. Outpatient monitoring (eg, remote telemetry, point-of-care testing)
3. Health promotion (eg, wellness counseling, health fairs)

Updated: August 7, 2026