

Adult CCRN Certification Review

Course Syllabus

Course Content

This modular course provides a comprehensive review of all topic areas covered in the test plan for the CCRN Adult certification exam. Course content aligns with the weighting (percentages) of topics in the current test plan and also includes test-taking tips and practice questions.

Content Breakdown

Adult CCRN Exam Test Plan and Review Course

Clinical Judgment — 80%

- Cardiovascular (13%)
- Respiratory (12%)
- Endocrine/Hematology/Gastrointestinal/Renal & Genitourinary/ Integumentary (21%)
- Musculoskeletal/Neurological/Behavioral & Psychosocial (18%)
- Multisystem (16%)

Professional Caring/Ethical Practice — 20%

The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's (ANCC's) Commission on Accreditation, ANCC Provider Number 0012. AACN has been approved as a provider of continuing education in nursing by the California State Board of Registered Nursing (CA BRN), California Provider Number CEP1036. This activity is approved for 15.5 contact hours.

Module 1: Test-Taking Tips

1. Test-taking strategies and resources

Modules 2 & 3: Cardiovascular Part 1 and Part 2

1. Acute coronary syndrome
2. Aortic aneurysm, dissection, rupture (i.e., thoracic, abdominal)
3. Cardiac infection and inflammatory diseases
4. Cardiac surgery
5. Cardiac tamponade
6. Cardiac trauma
7. Cardiac/vascular catheterization
8. Cardiogenic shock
9. Cardiomyopathy
10. Dysrhythmias
11. Heart failure
12. Hypertensive crisis
13. Myocardial conduction system defects (e.g., prolonged QT interval, Wolff-Parkinson-White)
14. Structural heart defects (acquired and congenital, including valvular disease)
15. Vascular disorders (e.g., arterial/venous stenosis)
16. Vascular interventions (e.g., stents, fem-pop bypass, carotid endarterectomy)

Modules 4 & 5: Respiratory Part 1 and Part 2

1. Acute pulmonary edema
2. Acute pulmonary embolus

3. Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)
4. Acute respiratory failure
5. Acute respiratory infection (e.g., pneumonia)
6. Chronic conditions (e.g., COPD, asthma, bronchitis, emphysema)
7. Mechanical ventilation complications
8. Pleural space abnormalities (e.g., pneumothorax, hemothorax, empyema, pleural effusions)
9. Pulmonary hemorrhage
10. Pulmonary hypertension
11. Status asthmaticus
12. Thoracic and airway trauma (e.g., fractured rib, lung contusion, tracheal perforation)
13. Thoracic surgery

Module 6: Neurology

1. Acute spinal cord injury
2. Brain death
3. Encephalopathy
4. Stroke (e.g., hemorrhagic, ischemic)
5. Hydrocephalus
6. Neurogenic shock
7. Neurologic infectious disease (e.g., viral, bacterial, fungal)
8. Neurological storming
9. Neuromuscular disorders (e.g., ALS, neuromyopathies)
10. Neurosurgery

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11. Neurovascular abnormalities
12. Seizure disorder
13. Space-occupying lesions (e.g., brain tumors, cysts)
14. Spinal surgeries
15. Traumatic brain injury (e.g., epidural, subdural, concussion, nonaccidental trauma)

Module 7: Renal and Genitourinary

1. Acute kidney injury (AKI), acute tubular necrosis (ATN)
2. Chronic kidney disease (CKD)
3. Infections (e.g., kidney, urosepsis)

Module 8: Gastrointestinal

1. Abdominal compartment syndrome
2. Acute abdominal trauma
3. Acute GI hemorrhage
4. Bowel infarction/obstruction/perforation (e.g., mesenteric ischemia, adhesions)
5. GI surgeries (e.g., Whipple, esophagectomy, resections)
6. Hepatic failure/coma (e.g., portal hypertension, cirrhosis, esophageal varices, fulminant hepatitis, biliary atresia)
7. Liver disease
8. Malnutrition and malabsorption
9. Pancreatitis
10. Peritonitis

Module 9: Hematology and Immunology

1. Anemia

2. Autoimmune disorders (e.g., lupus, myasthenia gravis, Guillain-Barré syndrome)
3. Coagulopathies (e.g., ITP, DIC, HIT)
4. Myelosuppression (e.g., thrombocytopenia, neutropenia)
5. Oncologic complications (e.g., tumor lysis syndrome, neutropenia)
6. Transfusion reactions (e.g., TRALI, TACO)

Module 10: Endocrine

1. Adrenal insufficiency
2. Diabetes insipidus (DI)
3. Diabetes mellitus, types 1 and 2
4. Diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA)
5. Hyperglycemia
6. Hyperosmolar hyperglycemic state (HHS)
7. Hypoglycemia
8. Syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone secretion (SIADH)
9. Thyroid disorders

Module 11: Integumentary

1. Cellulitis
2. IV infiltration
3. Necrotizing fasciitis
4. Pressure injury
5. Skin failure (e.g., perfusion injuries)
6. Wounds

Module 12: Musculoskeletal

1. Compartment syndrome
2. Fractures
3. Muscular deconditioning
4. Musculoskeletal trauma

Modules 13 & 14: Multisystem Part 1 and Part 2

1. Acid-base imbalance
2. Anoxic Injury
3. Burns
4. Comorbidity in patients with transplant history
5. Palliative care
6. End-of-life
7. Failure to thrive
8. Fluid and electrolyte imbalances
9. Healthcare-associated infections
10. Infectious diseases
11. Life-threatening maternal/fetal complications (e.g., eclampsia, HELLP syndrome, maternal/fetal transfusion, placental abruption, placenta previa)
12. Multi-organ dysfunction syndrome (MODS)
13. Obesity related complications
14. Pain
15. Rhabdomyolysis
16. Sepsis

17. Shock states (e.g., distributive, obstructive)
18. Sleep disruption (including sensory overload)
19. Submersion injuries (near-drowning)
20. Systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS)
21. Thermoregulation
22. Toxic ingestion/inhalation/exposure

Modules 15: Behavioral and Psychosocial

1. Agitation
2. Anti-social behaviors, aggression, violence
3. Delirium
4. Medical non-adherence
5. Mood disorders, depression, anxiety
6. Post-intensive care syndrome (PICS)
7. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
8. Self-harm
9. Substance use disorder
10. Suicidal ideation and/or behaviors

Module 16: Professional Caring and Ethical Practice

1. Advocacy/Moral Agency
2. Caring Practices
3. Clinical Inquiry
4. Collaboration
5. Facilitation of Learning

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6. Response to Diversity
7. Systems Thinking