



APPLIED MEASUREMENT PROFESSIONALS, INC.



Certification Organization for the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses

### A National Practice Analysis of the Critical Care Nurse Executive Summary

Periodic national Practice Analyses are conducted to develop test plans for certification exams. The test plans are grounded in practice and provide a framework for candidate study. AACN Certification Corporation requested the services of Applied Measurement Professionals, Inc. (AMP) to design and conduct the 2008 Critical Care Practice Analysis to ensure the CCRN Adult, Pediatric, and Neonatal exam would be representative of the current practice of critical care nurses.

The CCRN Practice Analysis Task Force (PATF) met in March 2008 to conduct the activities necessary to identify critical care nurses' responsibilities and develop potential test specifications. The diversity of this group was reflective of the practice areas within critical care throughout the United States. A web-based survey was distributed to 3903 certified and non-certified critical care nurses working with Adult, Pediatric, and Neonatal critically ill patients. The survey had a 28.3% usable response rate. The survey was analyzed by the PATF to determine which Patient Problems and Nursing Actions would be used in the test plans for the Adult, Pediatric, and Neonatal CCRN exams. Only Patient Problems that were significant to practice were included, and the Nursing Actions were determined to be used to guide future item writers. It was determined that a total of 125 scored multiple-choice items would be sufficient to assess the Patient Care Problems.

The CCRN EDC (Exam Development Committee) selected by AACN Certification Corporation will use the new test plans to build CCRN exam forms that will be used for testing beginning mid-January, 2010. All items appearing on the exam will be linked to the test plans and have the unanimous agreement of the committee. In addition, the test plans will be made available to the public, including candidates and review course educators for the purposes of candidate preparation for testing. A summary of the new test plan content areas and respective number of items in each area are shown below.

Content area allocation for each CCRN exam

	Adult	Neonatal	Pediatric
Cardiovascular	25	12	18
Pulmonary	22	30	22
Endocrine	6	4	6
Hematology/Immunology	2	8	4
Neurology	15	12	17
Gastrointestinal	7	8	8
Renal	8	6	7
Multisystem	10	12	14
Behavioral	5	8	4
Professional/Synergy	25	25	25

