

ADULT CCRN TEST PLAN (effective November 12, 2025)

Clinical Judgment (80%)	
Cardiovascular (13%) Approx 16 Questions	
1. Acute coronary syndrome 2. Aortic aneurysm, dissection, rupture (e.g. 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)
Respiratory (12%) Approx 15 Questions	
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, and 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
Endocrine (6 Questions), Hematology/Immunology (3 Questions), Gastrointestinal (9 Questions), Renal/GU (6 Questions) & Integumentary (3 Questions) TOTAL Combined Questions: Approx 27 (or 21%)	
1. Endocrine a. Adrenal insufficiency b. Diabetes insipidus (DI) c. Diabetes mellitus (types I and II) d. Diabetic ketoacidosis e. Hyperglycemia f. Hyperosmolar hyperglycemic state (HHS)	3. Gastrointestinal a. Abdominal compartment syndrome b. Acute abdominal trauma c. Acute GI hemorrhage d. Bowel infarction, obstruction, perforation (e.g. mesenteric ischemia, adhesions) e. GI surgeries (e.g. Whipple, esophagectomy, resections)

ADULT CCRN TEST PLAN (effective November 12, 2025)

g. Syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone secretion (SIADH) h. Thyroid disorders 2. Hematology & Immunology a. Anemia b. Autoimmune disorders (e.g. lupus, myasthenia gravis, Guillain-Barre syndrome) c. Coagulopathies (e.g. ITP, DIC, HIT) d. Myelosuppression (e.g. thrombocytopenia, neutropenia) e. Oncologic complications (e.g. tumor lysis syndrome, neutropenia) f. Transfusion reactions (e.g. TRALI, TACO)	f. Hepatic failure/coma (e.g. portal hypertension, cirrhosis, esophageal varices, fulminant hepatitis, biliary atresia) g. Liver disease h. Malnutrition and malabsorption i. Pancreatitis j. Peritonitis 4. Renal & Genitourinary a. Acute kidney injury (AKI), acute tubular necrosis (ATN) b. Chronic kidney disease (CKD) c. Infections (e.g. kidney, urosepsis) 5. Integumentary a. Cellulitis b. IV infiltration c. Necrotizing fasciitis d. Pressure injury e. Skin failure (e.g. perfusion injuries) f. Wounds
Musculoskeletal (4 Questions), Neurological (15 Questions), Behavioral/Psychosocial (4 Questions) TOTAL = 18% (23 Questions)	
1. Musculoskeletal a. Compartment syndrome b. Fractures c. Muscular deconditioning d. Musculoskeletal trauma 2. Neurological a. Acute spinal cord injury b. Brain death c. Encephalopathy d. Stroke (e.g. hemorrhagic, ischemic) e. Hydrocephalus f. Neurogenic shock g. Neurologic infectious disease (e.g. viral, bacterial, fungal)	3. Behavioral and Psychosocial a. Agitation b. Anti-social behaviors, aggression, violence c. Delirium d. Medical non-adherence e. Mood disorders, depression, anxiety f. Post-intensive care syndrome g. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) h. Self-harm i. Substance use disorder j. Suicidal ideation and/or behaviors

ADULT CCRN TEST PLAN (effective November 12, 2025)

h. Neurological storming i. Neuromuscular disorders (e.g. ALS, neuromyopathies) j. Neurosurgery k. Neurovascular abnormalities l. Seizure disorders m. Space-occupying lesion (e.g. brain tumors, cysts) n. Spinal surgeries o. Traumatic brain injury (e.g. epidural, subdural, concussion, non-accidental trauma)	
Multisystem (16%) Approx. 20 Questions	
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/inhalations/exposure
Professional Caring & Ethical Practice (20%) 25 Questions	
A. Advocacy/Moral Agency B. Caring Practices C. Clinical Inquiry D. Collaboration	E. Facilitation of Learning F. Response to Diversity G. Systems Thinking

Information above taken from: AACN: CCRN Direct Care Certification Eligibility Pathway; Exam Handbook for Acute/Critical Care; AACN Certification Corporation

<https://aacn.org>