CONTENT BLUEPRINT FOR THE NCCPA
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT NATIONAL RECERTIFYING EXAMINATION (PANRE)
AND THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT NATIONAL RECERTIFYING EXAMINATION LONGITUDINAL ASSESSMENT
(PANRE-LA)
(effective January 2023)

This content blueprint provides information on how exam questions are allocated to the different content categories on PANRE and PANRE-LA. In 2019, NCCPA revised the format of its recertification exams to assess the core medical knowledge deemed important for all Board Certified PAs, regardless of their practice discipline or setting. That transition was the culmination of an extensive multi-year initiative to gather feedback from PAs, including data from various focus groups and surveys of the PA profession. The updated blueprint, effective in January 2023, builds on that earlier work and reflects the findings from the 2021 practice analysis. A panel of Board Certified PAs collaborated with NCCPA to develop a survey that was disseminated to the profession. In that survey, PAs were asked to share feedback on whether specific diseases and disorders were considered to be core medical knowledge and, if so, the performance expectation at which each disease and disorder should be assessed.

Board Certified PAs are involved throughout the exam development process by collaborating on the practice analysis survey, reviewing results of the practice analysis and core medical knowledge response data, writing questions that are included on the recertification assessments, reviewing assessments before they are administered, reviewing performance data for questions, and developing recommendations for passing standards. PAs work with NCCPA to continuously review the content included on the recertification assessments to ensure that it is relevant and current, as the practice of medicine changes and treatment guidelines are revised or new ones introduced.

The percentage allocations of questions by organ system on the recertification exams, effective January 2023, are as follows:

Organ System	% Allocation*
Cardiovascular System	12%
Dermatologic System	5%
Endocrine System	8%
Eyes, Ears, Nose, and Throat	8%
Gastrointestinal System and/or Nutrition	10%
Genitourinary System	5%
Hematologic System	4%
Infectious Diseases	7%
Musculoskeletal System	8%
Neurologic System	5%
Psychiatry/Behavioral Science	7%
Pulmonary System	10%
Renal System	4%
Reproductive System	5%
Emergent Topics (Legal, Ethical, DEI)	2%

*Percentages may vary slightly

A more detailed blueprint that provides the diseases and disorders that may be covered on PANRE and PANRE-LA and the performance level at which they are assessed can be found here.