

The Dermatology CAQ content blueprint provides information on how exam questions are allocated to the different task categories and medical content categories that have been deemed important for PAs working within the specialty area.

The examples provided for each task and medical content category are indicative of the types of information that will be included on the examination. It is not possible to include all topics on a single examination, and it may be possible that some questions on a single examination cover content that is not listed in the examples.

### **Task Categories**

1. History and Physical	25%
2. Laboratory Studies	12%
3. Diagnosis	15%
4. Health Maintenance	5%
5. Surgical Interventions	8%
6. Nonsurgical Interventions	15%
7. Pharmacology	15%
8. Scientific Concepts	5%

### **Medical Content Categories**

Inflammatory Dermatoses	11%
Psoriasis and Other Papulosquamous Diseases	10%
Precancerous Lesions and Nonmelanoma Skin Cancer	9%
Acne, Rosacea, and Related Disorders	8%
Nevi and Melanoma	8%
Infectious Dermatoses	6%
Hypersensitivity Reactions	5%
Benign Tumors and Vascular Lesions	5%
Blistering Dermatoses	5%
Skin Manifestations of Systemic Disease and Nutritional Deficiency	5%
Connective Tissue Disease	5%
Hair and Nail Disorders	5%
Urticaria	4%
Severe and Life-Threatening Eruptions	3%
Pigment Disorders	3%
Infestations and Bites	2%
Mucocutaneous Disorder	2%
Psychiatric Dermatoses	2%
Lymphoproliferative Disorders	2%

## **Task Categories for Item Writing**

### **1. History and Physical**

- A. Understand the significance of primary and secondary clinical morphology, including distribution and dermoscopic findings
- B. Take an effective history including genetic, social, family, and medical risk factors
- C. Understand the progression of current symptoms and history of dermatologic conditions
- D. Construct a realistic differential diagnosis based on history and physical examination findings

### **2. Laboratory Studies**

- A. Select appropriate laboratory studies, point-of-care tests, and/or procedures
- B. Select appropriate biopsy techniques and locations
- C. Order laboratory monitoring for chronic dermatologic conditions
- D. Interpret point-of-care test results and pathology reports
- E. Interpret results of laboratory studies

### **3. Diagnosis**

- A. Use findings from laboratory tests, history, physical examination, and/or dermoscopy to make a diagnosis

### **4. Health Maintenance**

- A. Instruct patients who are at increased risk for poor wound healing about risk minimization
- B. Understand skin cancer prevention
- C. Educate patients on dermatologic conditions
- D. Educate patients on complications of homeopathic and natural remedies

### **5. Surgical Interventions**

- A. Understand preoperative considerations for excisional surgery (eg, suture technique and selection)
- B. Understand the risks and benefits associated with surgical interventions
- C. Understand the basics of Mohs micrographic surgery
- D. Understand the management of special situations (eg, anticoagulant therapy, stated allergies to anesthetics, and pregnancy)
- E. Recognize the clinical settings in which perioperative antibiotics are indicated

### **6. Nonsurgical Interventions**

- A. Construct initial management and maintenance plan for dermatologic conditions including referral
- B. Modify management plan, depending on response to therapy
- C. Understand the risks and benefits associated with nonsurgical interventions
- D. Understand the management of special situations including anticoagulant therapy, stated allergies to anesthetics, and pregnancy
- E. Recognize and manage the risks and complications of cosmetic procedures

**7. Pharmacology**

- A. Understand the fundamentals of pharmacology relevant to dermatology
- B. Understand the proper use of topical and systemic therapies
- C. Understand the indications and contraindications of topical and systemic therapies
- D. Understand the adverse effects and monitoring of topical and systemic therapies
- E. Understand the management of special situations including anticoagulant therapy, stated allergies to anesthetics, and pregnancy
- F. Understand the mechanisms and complications of cosmetic medications that also have medical applications

**8. Scientific Concepts**

- A. Understand the fundamental pathophysiology, exacerbating factors, and associations of common skin conditions
- B. Understand the fundamentals of carcinogenesis relevant to dermatology
- C. Understand the fundamentals of embryology relevant to dermatology
- D. Understand the fundamentals of epidemiology and public health relevant to dermatology
- E. Understand the fundamentals of genetics relevant to dermatology
- F. Understand the fundamentals of immunology, inflammation, and wound healing relevant to dermatology
- G. Understand the fundamentals of photobiology relevant to dermatology
- H. Understand the fundamentals of the structure and function of the skin
- I. Understand the essential elements of oncology related to surgical dermatology

**Medical Content Categories****Inflammatory Dermatoses (11%)**

- CARP
- Chilblains (pernio)
- Chondrodermatitis nodularis helices
- Contact dermatitis
- Diaper rash
- Dyshidrotic eczema
- Erythema multiforme
- Erythema nodosum
- Granuloma annulare
- Ichthyosis vulgaris
- Lichen planus
- Morbilliform drug eruption
- Pigmented purpura
- Prurigo nodularis
- Pyoderma gangrenosum
- Small vessel vasculitis
- Sweet syndrome/neutrophilic dermatosis
- Vitiligo

**Psoriasis and Other Papulosquamous Diseases (10%)**

- Atopic dermatitis
- Grover disease
- Keratosis pilaris
- Lichen nitidus
- Lichen striatus
- Nummular dermatitis
- Parapsoriasis (small plaque and large plaque)
- Pityriasis lichenoides chronica
- Pityriasis rosea
- Pityriasis rubra pilaris
- Psoriasis
- Seborrheic dermatitis

**Precancerous Lesions and Nonmelanoma Skin Cancer (9%)**

- Actinic keratosis
- Basal cell carcinoma

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- Merkel cell
- Squamous cell carcinoma, including KA and in-situ

#### **Acne, Rosacea, and Related Disorders (8%)**

- Acne vulgaris
- Dissecting cellulitis
- Folliculitis
- Hidradenitis suppurativa
- Hyperhidrosis
- Neonatal cephalic pustulosis
- Perioral dermatitis
- Rosacea

#### **Nevi and Melanoma (8%)**

- Becker nevus
- Blue nevus
- Melanoma
- Nevocellular nevus and atypical nevus
- Nevus sebaceus
- Nevus spilus

#### **Infectious Dermatoses (6%)**

- Candidiasis
- Cellulitis
- Diaper rash
- Eczema herpeticum
- Erythrasma
- Hand-foot-mouth disease
- Herpes simplex
- Herpes zoster
- Impetigo
- Molluscum contagiosum
- Onychomycosis
- Pitted keratolysis
- Sporotrichosis
- Syphilis
- Tinea versicolor
- Tinea (capitis, corporis, cruris, faciei, manuum, pedis)
- Varicella
- Wart

#### **Hypersensitivity Reactions (5%)**

- Acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis
- Contact dermatitis
- Fixed drug eruption

- Lichenoid drug eruption
- Phototoxic/photoallergic eruption
- Polymorphous light eruption

#### **Benign Tumors and Vascular Lesions (5%)**

- Angiofibroma
- Angiokeratoma
- Dermatofibroma
- Hemangioma
- Keloid
- Lentigo simplex
- Livedo reticularis
- Mastocytoma
- Porokeratosis
- Pyogenic granuloma
- Sebaceous gland hyperplasia
- Seborrheic keratosis
- Small vessel vasculitis
- Syringoma

#### **Blistering Dermatoses (5%)**

- Bullous pemphigoid
- Dermatitis herpetiformis
- Pemphigus foliaceus, vegetans, vulgaris

#### **Skin Manifestations of Systemic Disease and Nutritional Deficiency (5%)**

- Acanthosis nigricans
- Calciophylaxis
- Lipodermatosclerosis
- Neurofibromatosis
- Parapsoriasis: small plaque and large plaque
- Pityriasis rubra pilaris
- Porphyria cutanea tarda
- Pyoderma gangrenosum
- Sarcoidosis
- Specific dermatoses of pregnancy
- Stasis dermatitis

#### **Connective Tissue Disease (5%)**

- Dermatomyositis
- Lichen sclerosis
- Lipodermatosclerosis
- Lupus erythematosus
- Morphea/localized scleroderma
- Necrobiosis lipoidica
- Systemic sclerosis/scleroderma/CREST

**Hair and Nail Disorders (5%)**

- Acne keloidalis
- Alopecia areata
- Androgenetic hair loss
- Beau lines
- Dissecting cellulitis
- Folliculitis decalvans
- Frontal fibrosing alopecia
- Lichen planus
- Paronychia
- Scarring and non-scarring alopecias and CCCA
- Telogen effluvium

**Urticaria (4%)**

- Arthropod bites
- Mastocytosis
- Urticaria

**Severe and Life-Threatening Eruptions (3%)**

- DRESS Syndrome
- Staphylococcal scalded skin syndrome
- Stevens-Johnson syndrome
- Toxic epidermal necrolysis

**Pigment Disorders (3%)**

- Melasma
- Pityriasis alba
- Poikiloderma of Civatte
- Vitiligo

**Infestations and Bites (2%)**

- Arthropod bites
- Cutaneous larva migrans
- Scabies and lice

**Mucocutaneous Disorder (2%)**

- Lichen planus

**Psychiatric Dermatoses (2%)**

- Factitial dermatitis
- Lichen simplex chronicus
- Prurigo nodularis

**Lymphoproliferative Disorders (2%)**

- Cutaneous T-cell lymphoma
- Parapsoriasis (small plaque and large plaque)
- Pityriasis lichenoides chronica