



# Medical-Surgical Nursing (MEDSURG-BC™) Board Certification Examination Test Content Outline

**Effective Date: September 10, 2024**

This test content outline lists the knowledge and skills identified as being important for the role, as determined by the most recent role delineation study. The number of questions in each of the major categories of the scored portion of the examination are shown below.

**Note: The examples in parentheses are not all-inclusive and do not indicate importance but are simply to provide clarification and guidance for studying.**

There are **150 questions** on the examination. Of these, **125 are scored questions** and **25 are pretest questions** that are not scored. Performance of pretest questions is evaluated and used to determine if they will be used in the scored portion of the examination. The pretest questions cannot be distinguished from those that will be scored, so it is important for a candidate to answer all questions. A candidate's score, however, is based solely on the 125 scored questions. Performance on pretest questions does not affect a candidate's score.

CONTENT DOMAIN	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS	PERCENTAGE
<b>I. Assessment and Diagnosis</b>	49	39%
<b>II. Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation</b>	50	40%
<b>III. Professional Role</b>	26	21%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>100%</b>

49 questions; 39%

## I. Assessment and Diagnosis

### A. Knowledge

1. Fluids and electrolytes (eg, imbalances, disease-related, blood products)

### B. Skill

1. Health history collection
2. Physical assessment (eg, vital signs, disease process, review of systems, activities of daily living)
3. Psychosocial assessment (eg, developmental stages, suicide risk, abuse, substance use disorders)
4. Cognitive assessment (eg, neuro status, developmental age, impairment)
5. Diagnostic and laboratory testing (eg, patient preparation, response to abnormal values, medication considerations)
6. Nursing diagnosis identification and prioritization

50 questions; 40%

## II. Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation

### A. Knowledge

1. Education topics (eg, self-management, acute and chronic conditions, population specific)
2. Patient safety measures (eg, screening tools, infection prevention, restraints, medical equipment)
3. Patient safety measures (eg, screening tools, infection prevention, restraints, medical equipment)
4. Medication interactions and adverse effects (eg, pain management, polypharmacy, drug-drug, food-drug)
5. Health and wellness promotion (eg, screenings, vaccinations, healthy lifestyle modifications)

### B. Skill

1. Nursing care planning (eg, interventions, modifications, outcomes)
2. Postoperative complication prevention and management (eg, bleeding, infection, emboli)
3. Patient teaching (eg, learning preferences, barriers, and evaluation of learning)

26 questions; 21%

## III. Professional Role

### A. Knowledge

1. Nursing ethics (eg, advocacy)
2. Evidence-based practice (eg, education, supporting materials)

### B. Skill

1. Therapeutic communication (eg, patient- and family-centered care, cultural competence)
2. Interdisciplinary healthcare team collaboration (eg, delegation, consults)

Updated: June 30, 2026