



## NA COMPETENCY EXAM CHANGES

2016

The annual review of the NA Manual Skills and Written Tests and testing procedures was conducted on September 29, 2015, at the meeting of the ad hoc Test Advisory Panel (TAP) at the Arizona Board of Nursing.

### **Background:**

The ad hoc Test Advisory Panel (TAP) is made up of volunteers who are directly involved with the education or supervision of NAs. Attendees at the NA Retreat are asked if they would like to serve on this panel and selection is made based upon past attendance, past or potential contributions to the process and representation of rural/urban areas and program types. Most volunteers are offered at least one opportunity to participate on a TAP.

### **Changes**

*Effective March 1, 2016*

### **Testing Processes/Evaluation**

Change in requirements relating to photo identification. The new requirement will not require the photo identification to be signed or non-expired. Test candidates will still be required to provide government issued photo identification.

### **Candidate Survey**

Technical changes were made to improve clarity

### **Written Exam**

The TAP panel reviewed 152 test questions and retained 73 items for a total of 1239 active items in the Arizona test bank.

### **Manual Skills Exam Changes**

1. The Tap panel reviewed manual skills and discussed the addition of the following skills: changing a brief and catheter care. The committee choose to add “**Male Perineal Care with Changing a Soiled Brief**” to the manual skills exam.

Rationale: According to the job analysis information provided, 80% of Nursing Assistants change a brief one or more times during a shift.

2. **Bedpan and Output:**

- a. Add step “Lowers bed” before candidate steps away to a private area of room away from resident.
  - o Rationale: To ensure resident safety, the bed needs to be lowered prior to leaving the resident.
- b. Add step “Raises bed” before Washes/assists resident to wash and dry hands.
  - o Rationale: To ensure candidate uses correct body mechanics, the bed needs to be

- raised.
- c. Add clarifying statement to number 10 “Washes/assists resident to wash and dry hands” to include “Using a wet washcloth with soap”
    - Rationale: To provide the candidate clarity of expectation.
3. **Blood Pressure:** Change wording for step number 4 from as follows: “Assists resident into a comfortable sitting or recumbent position with forearm relaxed and in a palm-up position ~~approximately at the level of the heart~~”.
    - Rationale: To align with current industry standards
  4. **Isolation Gown and Gloves:** Change wording on steps 5 and 6 from “candidate ties” to “candidate fastens”.
    - Rationale: Previous wording did not provide an option for varying types of gowns including those that utilize Velcro.
  5. **Isolation Gown and Gloves:** Reverse steps (9) and (10) so candidate will unfasten gown at the waist prior to unfastening gown at the neck. Change step (11) from “Candidate will remove the gown by folding soiled area to soiled area” to “Candidate will remove the gown starting by slipping hands underneath the gown at the neck and shoulder and folding the gown soiled area to soiled area”.
    - Rationale: To align skill with current CDC recommendations, industry standards, and provide clarity to candidate.
  6. **Feeding the Dependent Resident:** Change step 6 from “Washes and dries resident’s hands before feeding” to “performs hand hygiene for resident before feeding”.
    - Rationale: Change will allow the use of hand sanitizer.
  7. **Mouth Care of Comatose Resident:** Add clarifying statement to step number 4 “Turns resident to a side lying position to avoid choking or aspiration” to include “May ask Test Observer for assistance if resident is too large to reposition on your own”
    - Rationale: To reinforce safety and correct positioning for large persons.
  8. Clarified confusion regarding “**Antiembotic Stocking**”. RN Test Observers will advise candidates of type of stocking being used – open or closed toe.