



Content Blueprint for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE) (effective beginning January 2025 for all PANCE administrations)

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The PANCE content blueprint provides information on how exam questions are allocated to the different medical content and task categories that have been deemed important for entry-level practice as a Board Certified PA.

These exam specifications are based on the results of the most recent profession-wide practice analysis. The examples provided for each medical content and task category are indicative of the types of information that will be included on the exam. It is not possible to include all topics on a single exam, and it may be possible that some questions on the exam cover content that is not listed in the examples.

Content Categories

	Percentage
Cardiovascular System	11%
Dermatologic System	4%
Endocrine System	6%
Eyes, Ears, Nose, and Throat	6%
Gastrointestinal System/Nutrition	8%
Genitourinary System	4%
Hematologic System	5%
Infectious Diseases	7%
Musculoskeletal System	8%
Neurologic System	7%
Psychiatry/Behavioral Science	7%
Pulmonary System	9%
Renal System	5%
Reproductive System	7%
Professional Practice*	6%

Task Categories

	Percentage
History Taking and Performing Physical Examination	16%
Using Diagnostic and Laboratory Studies	10%
Formulating the Most Likely Diagnosis	18%
Managing Patients	
Health Maintenance, Patient Education, and Preventive Measures	11%
Clinical Intervention	16%
Pharmaceutical Therapeutics	15%
Applying Foundational Scientific Concepts	8%
Professional Practice*	6%

*Medical content comprises 94% of the exam. All medical content questions are also coded to one of the task areas, with the exception of the Professional Practice category. Questions related to professional practice issues comprise 6% of the exam (described on pp. 20-21). Some questions on the exam will cover surgical topics (8% to 10%), and some will focus on conditions in pediatric patients (12% to 15%). The specific percentage allocations may vary slightly on exams.

Medical Content Categories

Cardiovascular System (11%)

Cardiomyopathy

- Dilated
- Hypertrophic
- Restrictive
- Stress

Conduction disorders/dysrhythmias

- Atrial fibrillation
- Atrial flutter
- Atrial tachycardia
- Atrioventricular block
- Bradycardia
- Bundle branch block
- Idioventricular rhythm
- Junctional rhythms
- Premature contractions
- QT prolongation
- Sick sinus syndrome
- Sinus arrhythmia
- Torsades de pointes
- Ventricular fibrillation
- Ventricular tachycardia

Congenital heart disease

- Atrial septal defect
- Coarctation of aorta
- Patent ductus arteriosus
- Patent foramen ovale
- Tetralogy of Fallot
- Transposition of the great vessels
- Ventricular septal defect

Coronary artery disease

- Acute coronary syndrome
 - Angina pectoris
 - Non–ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction
 - ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction
 - Unstable angina
- Atherosclerosis

Heart failure

Hypertension

- Primary hypertension
- Secondary hypertension
- Hypertensive emergencies

Hypotension

- Orthostatic hypotension
- Vasovagal hypotension

Lipid disorders

Shock

- Cardiogenic
- Distributive
- Hypovolemic
- Obstructive

Traumatic, infectious, and inflammatory heart conditions

- Cardiac tamponade
- Infective endocarditis
- Myocarditis
- Pericardial effusion
- Pericarditis

Valvular disorders

- Aortic (stenosis and regurgitation)
- Mitral (prolapse, stenosis, regurgitation)
- Pulmonary (stenosis and regurgitation)
- Tricuspid (stenosis and regurgitation)

Vascular disease

- Aortic aneurysm/dissection
- Arterial embolism/thrombosis
- Arteriovenous malformation
- Deep venous thrombosis
- Giant cell arteritis
- Peripheral artery disease
- Phlebitis/thrombophlebitis
- Varicose veins
- Venous insufficiency

Dermatologic System (4%)

Acneiform eruptions

- Acne vulgaris
- Folliculitis
- Perioral dermatitis
- Rosacea

Desquamation

- Erythema multiforme
- Stevens-Johnson syndrome
- Toxic epidermal necrolysis

Diseases/disorders of the hair and nails

- Alopecia
- Onychomycosis
- Paronychia/felon

Envenomations and arthropod bite reactions

Infectious diseases

- Bacterial
 - Cellulitis
 - Erysipelas
 - Impetigo
- Fungal
 - Candidiasis
 - Dermatophyte infections
- Parasitic
 - Lice
 - Scabies
- Viral
 - Condyloma acuminatum
 - Exanthems
 - Hand-foot-and-mouth disease
 - Herpes simplex
 - Molluscum contagiosum
 - Varicella-zoster virus infections
 - Verrucae

Keratotic disorders

- Actinic keratosis
- Seborrheic keratosis

Neoplasms

- Benign
- Malignant
- Premalignant

Papulosquamous disorders

- Atopic dermatitis
- Contact dermatitis
- Drug eruptions
- Eczema
- Lichen planus
- Pityriasis rosea
- Psoriasis
- Seborrheic dermatitis

Pigment disorders

- Melasma
- Vitiligo

Skin integrity

- Burns
- Lacerations
- Pressure injury

Vascular abnormalities

- Cherry angioma
- Hemangioma
- Purpura
- Stasis dermatitis
- Telangiectasia

Vesiculobullous disease

- Pemphigoid
- Pemphigus

Other dermatologic disorders

- Acanthosis nigricans
- Hidradenitis suppurativa
- Lipomas/epidermal inclusion cysts
- Photosensitivity reactions
- Pilonidal disease
- Urticaria

Endocrine System (6%)

Adrenal disorders

- [Cushing syndrome](#)
- [Pheochromocytoma](#)
- [Primary adrenal insufficiency](#)

Diabetes mellitus

- [Type 1](#)
- [Type 2](#)

Hypogonadism

Metabolic syndrome

Neoplasms

- [Multiple endocrine neoplasia](#)
- [Neoplastic syndrome](#)
- [Primary endocrine malignancy](#)

Parathyroid disorders

- [Hyperparathyroidism](#)
- [Hypoparathyroidism](#)

Pituitary disorders

- [Acromegaly/gigantism](#)
- [Cushing disease](#)
- [Diabetes insipidus](#)
- [Dwarfism](#)
- [Pituitary adenoma](#)
- [Prolactinoma](#)
- [SIADH](#)

Thyroid disorders

- [Goiter](#)
- [Hyperthyroidism](#)
- [Hypothyroidism](#)
- [Thyroid nodules](#)
- [Thyroiditis](#)

Eyes, Ears, Nose, and Throat (6%)

Eye disorders

- Conjunctivitis
- Corneal disorders
 - Cataract
 - Corneal ulcer
 - Infectious
 - Keratitis
 - Pterygium
- Inflammatory disorders
 - Iritis
 - Scleritis
 - Uveitis
- Lacrimal disorders
 - Dacryoadenitis
 - Dacryocystitis
 - Dacryostenosis
 - Keratoconjunctivitis sicca
- Lid disorders
 - Blepharitis
 - Chalazion
 - Ectropion
 - Entropion
 - Hordeolum
- Neuro-ophthalmologic disorders
 - Nystagmus
 - Optic neuritis
 - Papilledema
- Orbital disorders
 - Orbital cellulitis
 - Periorbital cellulitis
- Retinal disorders
 - Macular degeneration
 - Retinal detachment
 - Retinopathy
- Retinal vascular occlusion
- Vision abnormalities
 - Amaurosis fugax
 - Amblyopia
 - Glaucoma
 - Strabismus
 - Presbyopia

Ear disorders

- External ear
 - Cerumen impaction
 - Otitis externa
- Inner ear
 - Acoustic neuroma
 - Dysfunction of eustachian tube
 - Labyrinthitis
 - Vertigo
- Middle ear
 - Cholesteatoma
 - Otitis media
 - Otosclerosis
 - Tympanic membrane perforation
- Hearing impairment
 - Conductive
 - Sensorineural
- Other abnormalities of the ear
 - Mastoiditis
 - Meniere disease
 - Tinnitus

Foreign bodies of the eyes, ears, nose, and throat

Trauma of the eyes, ears, nose, and throat

- Barotrauma of the ear
- Blowout fracture
- Corneal abrasion
- Globe rupture
- Hyphema

Neoplasms

- Benign
- Malignant

Nose/sinus disorders

- Epistaxis
- Nasal polyps
- Rhinitis
- Sinusitis

Oropharyngeal disorders

- Infectious/inflammatory disorders
 - Angioedema
 - Aphthous ulcers
 - Candidiasis
 - Deep neck infection
 - Dental abscess
 - Dental caries
 - Epiglottitis
 - Gingivitis
 - Laryngitis
 - Peritonsillar abscess
 - Pharyngitis
- Salivary disorders
 - Parotitis
 - Sialadenitis
- Other oropharyngeal disorders
 - Leukoplakia

Gastrointestinal System/Nutrition (8%)

Biliary disorders

- Acute cholecystitis
- Chronic cholecystitis
- Cholangitis
- Cholelithiasis

Colorectal disorders

- Abscess/fistula
- Anal fissure
- Constipation
- Diverticular disease
- Fecal impaction/incontinence
- Hemorrhoids
- Ileus
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Irritable bowel syndrome
- Ischemic bowel disease
- Obstruction
- Polyps
- Rectal prolapse
- Toxic megacolon

Diarrhea

Esophageal disorders

- Esophagitis
- Gastroesophageal reflux disease
- Mallory-Weiss tear
- Motility disorders
- Strictures
- Varices
- Zenker diverticulum

Gastric disorders

- Gastritis
- Gastroparesis
- Peptic ulcer disease
- Pyloric stenosis

Gastrointestinal bleeding

Hepatic disorders

- Acute hepatitis
- Chronic hepatitis
- Cirrhosis
- Fatty liver
- Portal hypertension

Hernias

Hyperemesis

Ingestion of toxic substances or foreign bodies

Metabolic disorders

- Phenylketonuria
- Rickets

Neoplasms

- Benign
- Malignant

Nutrition

- Food allergies and food sensitivities
- Hypervitaminosis/hypovitaminosis
- Malabsorption
- Refeeding syndrome

Obesity

Pancreatic disorders

- Acute pancreatitis
- Chronic pancreatitis

Small intestine disorders

- Appendicitis
- Celiac disease
- Intussusception
- Obstruction
- Polyps

Genitourinary System (4%)

Benign prostatic hyperplasia

Bladder disorders

- Incontinence
- Overactive bladder
- Prolapse

Congenital and acquired abnormalities

- Cryptorchidism
- Peyronie disease
- Trauma
- Vesicoureteral reflux

Infectious disorders

- Cystitis
- Epididymitis
- Fournier gangrene
- Orchitis
- Prostatitis
- Pyelonephritis
- Urethritis

Neoplasms

- Bladder
- Penile
- Prostate
- Testicular

Nephrolithiasis/urolithiasis

Penile disorders

- Erectile dysfunction
- Hypospadias/epispadias
- Paraphimosis/phimosis
- Priapism

Testicular disorders

- Hydrocele/varicocele
- Testicular torsion

Urethral disorders

- Prolapse
- Stricture

Hematologic System (5%)

Autoimmune disorders

Coagulation disorders

- Clotting factor disorders
- Thrombocytopenias

Cytopenias

- Anemia
- Leukopenia

Cytoses

- Polycythemia
- Thrombocytosis

Hereditary disorders

- G6PD deficiency
- Hemochromatosis
- Sickle cell disease
- Thalassemia

Immunologic disorders

Neoplasms, premalignancies, and malignancies

- Acute/chronic lymphocytic leukemia
- Acute/chronic myelogenous leukemia
- Lymphoma
- Multiple myeloma
- Myelodysplasia

Transfusion reaction

Infectious Diseases (7%)

Bacterial diseases

- [Bartonella](#)
- [Botulism](#)
- [Campylobacter jejuni infection](#)
- [Chancroid](#)
- [Chlamydia](#)
- [Cholera](#)
- [Clostridioides difficile infection](#)
- [Diphtheria](#)
- [Gonococcal infections](#)
- [Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus infections](#)
- [Rheumatic fever](#)
- [Rocky Mountain spotted fever](#)
- [Salmonellosis](#)
- [Shigellosis](#)
- [Tetanus](#)

Fungal diseases

- [Blastomycosis](#)
- [Candidiasis](#)
- [Coccidioidomycosis](#)
- [Cryptococcosis](#)
- [Histoplasmosis](#)
- [Pneumocystis](#)

Mycobacterial diseases

- [Atypical mycobacterial disease](#)
- [Tuberculosis](#)

Parasitic diseases

- [Amebiasis](#)
- [Giardiasis](#)
- [Helminth infestations](#)
- [Malaria](#)
- [Pinworms](#)
- [Toxoplasmosis](#)
- [Trichomoniasis](#)

Perinatal transmission of disorders

- [Congenital varicella](#)
- [Herpes simplex virus](#)
- [Human papillomavirus](#)
- [Zika virus](#)
- [Group B streptococcus](#)

Prion diseases

Sepsis/systemic inflammatory response syndrome

Spirochetal diseases

- [Lyme disease](#)
- [Syphilis](#)

Viral diseases

- [Coronavirus infections](#)
- [Cytomegalovirus infections](#)
- [Epstein-Barr virus infections](#)
- [Erythema infectiosum](#)
- [Herpes simplex virus infections](#)
- [HIV/AIDS](#)
- [Human papillomavirus infections](#)
- [Influenza](#)
- [Measles](#)
- [Mumps](#)
- [Polio](#)
- [Rabies](#)
- [Roseola](#)
- [Rubella](#)
- [Varicella-zoster virus infections](#)

Musculoskeletal System (8%)

Chest/rib disorders

- Deformities
- Fractures

Compartment syndrome

Degenerative diseases

- Osteoarthritis

Infectious diseases

- Osteomyelitis
- Septic arthritis

Lower extremity disorders

- Avascular necrosis
- Developmental dysplasia
- Extensor mechanism injuries
- Fractures/dislocations
- Osgood-Schlatter disease
- Slipped capital femoral epiphysis
- Soft-tissue injuries

Neoplasms

- Benign
- Malignant
- Paget disease of bone

Rheumatologic disorders

- Connective tissue diseases
- Fibromyalgia
- Gout/pseudogout
- Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis
- Osteoporosis
- Polyarteritis nodosa
- Polymyalgia rheumatica
- Polymyositis
- Reactive arthritis
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Sjögren syndrome
- Systemic lupus erythematosus
- Systemic sclerosis (scleroderma)

Spinal disorders

- Ankylosing spondylitis
- Herniated disk disease
- Kyphosis
- Scoliosis
- Spinal stenosis
- Spondylolisthesis
- Spondylolysis
- Sprain/strain
- Torticollis
- Trauma

Thoracic outlet syndrome

Upper extremity disorders

- Fractures/dislocations
- Soft-tissue injuries

Neurologic System (7%)

Cerebrovascular disorders

- Arteriovenous malformation
- Cerebral aneurysm
- Coma
- Hydrocephalus
- Intracranial hemorrhage
- Stroke
- Syncope
- Transient ischemic attack

Closed head injuries

- Concussion
- Postconcussion syndrome
- Traumatic brain injury

Cranial nerve palsies

Encephalopathic disorders

Headaches

- Cluster headache
- Migraine
- Tension headache

Infectious disorders

- Encephalitis
- Meningitis

Movement disorders

- Essential tremor
- Huntington disease
- Parkinson disease
- Restless legs syndrome
- Tourette disorder
- Tardive dyskinesia

Neoplasms

- Benign
- Malignant

Nerve disorders

- Complex regional pain syndrome
- Guillain-Barré syndrome
- Mononeuropathies
- Peripheral neuropathies

Neurocognitive disorders

- Cognitive impairment
- Delirium

Neuromuscular disorders

- Cerebral palsy
- Multiple sclerosis
- Myasthenia gravis

Seizure disorders

- Focal seizures
- Generalized seizures
- Status epilepticus

Spinal cord syndromes

- Cauda equina syndrome
- Epidural abscess
- Spinal cord injuries

Psychiatry/Behavioral Science (7%)

Abuse and neglect

- Child abuse
- Elder abuse
- Intimate partner violence
- Physical abuse
- Psychological abuse
- Sexual abuse

Anxiety disorders

- Generalized anxiety disorder
- Panic disorder
- Phobias

Bipolar and related disorders

Depressive disorders

- Major depressive disorder
- Persistent depressive disorder (dysthymia)
- Premenstrual dysphoric disorder
- Suicidal/homicidal behaviors

Disruptive, impulse-control, and conduct disorders

Dissociative disorders

Feeding and eating disorders

Human sexuality and gender dysphoria

Neurodevelopmental disorders

- Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder
- Autism spectrum disorder

Obsessive-compulsive and related disorders

Personality disorders

Psychogenic nonepileptic seizure

Schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders

Sleep-wake disorders

Somatic symptom and related disorders

Substance-related and addictive disorders

Trauma- and stressor-related disorders

- Adjustment disorders
- Bereavement
- Post-traumatic stress disorder

Pulmonary System (9%)

Acute respiratory distress syndrome

Foreign body aspiration

Hyaline membrane disease

Infectious disorders

- Acute bronchiolitis
- Acute bronchitis
- Acute epiglottitis
- Croup
- Empyema
- Influenza
- Pertussis
- Pneumonias
 - Bacterial
 - Fungal
 - HIV-related
 - Viral
- Respiratory syncytial virus infection
- Tuberculosis

Neoplasms

- Benign
- Malignant
- Carcinoid tumors

Obesity hypoventilation syndrome

Obstructive pulmonary diseases

- Asthma
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Cystic fibrosis

Pleural diseases

Pulmonary circulation

- Cor pulmonale
- Pulmonary edema
- Pulmonary embolism
- Pulmonary hypertension

Restrictive pulmonary diseases

- Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis
- Pneumoconiosis
- Sarcoidosis

Sleep apnea

Renal System (5%)

Acid-base disorders

Acute kidney injury and acute renal failure

- Intrinsic
- Prerenal
- Postrenal

Chronic kidney disease/end-stage renal disease

Congenital or structural renal disorders

- Horseshoe kidney
- Hydronephrosis
- Polycystic kidney disease

Electrolyte disorders

Fluid imbalances

Neoplasms

- Renal cell carcinoma
- Wilms tumor

Renovascular disease

Rhabdomyolysis

Reproductive System (7%)

Breast disorders

- Abscess
- Fibroadenoma
- Fibrocystic changes
- Galactorrhea
- Gynecomastia
- Mastitis

Cervical disorders

- Cervicitis
- Dysplasia

Contraceptive methods

Human sexuality and gender identity

Infertility

Menopause

Menstrual disorders

Neoplasms of the breast and reproductive tract

- Benign
- Malignant

Ovarian disorders

- Cysts
- Polycystic ovary syndrome
- Torsion

Pelvic inflammatory disease

Pregnancy

- Abruptio placentae
- Breech presentation
- Cervical insufficiency
- Cesarean and operative delivery
- Classifications of abortion
- Ectopic pregnancy
- Fetal distress
- Gestational diabetes
- Gestational trophoblastic disease
- Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy
- Labor/delivery
- Multiple gestation
- Placenta previa
- Postnatal/postpartum care
- Postpartum hemorrhage
- Postpartum pituitary disorders
- Postpartum psychiatric disorders
- Preconception/prenatal care
- Prelabor rupture of membranes
- Rh incompatibility
- Shoulder dystocia
- Umbilical cord prolapse

Trauma in pregnancy

- Physical
- Psychological
- Sexual

Uterine disorders

- Endometriosis
- Leiomyoma
- Prolapse

Vaginal/vulvar disorders

- Bartholin gland cysts
- Cystocele
- Prolapse
- Rectocele
- Vaginitis

Task Categories

History Taking and Performing Physical Examination (16%)

Knowledge of:

- General physical examination components and techniques
- Pertinent historical information
- Risk factors for the development of significant medical conditions
- Significant physical examination findings
- Signs and symptoms of significant medical conditions

Skill in:

- Reviewing pertinent resources to conduct comprehensive and/or problem-based interviews and physical examinations with compassion and empathy
- Identifying pertinent patient and family historical information from patients and caregivers
- Identifying pertinent physical examination information
- Triaging patients based on recognition of abnormal vital signs, examination findings, and/or general observations

Using Diagnostic and Laboratory Studies (10%)

Knowledge of:

- Patient-centered education relating to diagnostic and laboratory studies
- Indications and risks for initial and subsequent diagnostic and laboratory studies
- Indications and risks for preventive screening tests

Skill in:

- Collecting diagnostic and laboratory specimens
- Communicating risks, benefits, and results effectively to other members of the health care team
- Communicating risks, benefits, and results effectively to patients, families, and caregivers
- Integrating diagnostic and laboratory results with history and physical examination findings
- Reviewing and interpreting results of diagnostic and laboratory studies
- Selecting appropriate diagnostic and/or laboratory studies
- Using diagnostic equipment safely and appropriately

Formulating Most Likely Diagnosis (18%)

Knowledge of:

- Significance of diagnostic and laboratory studies as they relate to diagnosis
- Significance of history as it relates to the differential diagnosis
- Significance of physical examination findings as they relate to diagnosis

Skill in:

- Formulating most likely differential diagnoses
- Incorporating history, physical examination findings, and diagnostic data into medical decision-making
- Recognizing the need for referral to a specialist
- Selecting the most likely diagnosis in light of presented data

Managing Patients — Health Maintenance, Patient Education, and Preventive Measures (11%)

Knowledge of:

- Appropriate patient education regarding preventable conditions and lifestyle modifications
- Early detection and prevention of medical conditions
- Effects of aging and changing family roles
- Human growth and development
- Human sexuality and gender identity, gender transition, and associated medical issues
- Immunization schedules and recommendations for infants, children, adults, and foreign travelers/adoptions
- Impact of patient demographics on risks for medical conditions
- Prevention of communicable diseases
- Preventive screening recommendations
- Psychosocial effects of illness, stress, and injury as well as related healthy coping strategies
- Signs of abuse and neglect, and psychological distress

Skill in:

- Adapting health maintenance to an individual patient's context
- Communicating effectively with and educating patients, family members, and caregivers regarding medical conditions
- Conducting education on modifiable risk factors with an emphasis on primary and secondary prevention
- Reporting suspected abuse and/or trafficking
- Using appropriate screening tools
- Using counseling techniques

Managing Patients — Clinical Intervention (16%)

Knowledge of:

- Clinical procedures and their indications, contraindications, complications, risks, benefits, and techniques
- Conditions that constitute medical emergencies
- Criteria for admission to or discharge from the hospital or other facilities
- Management, treatment, and follow-up of medical conditions
- Palliative care and end-of-life issues
- Roles of other health professionals
- Sterile technique
- Support structure systems, based on patient needs
- Therapeutic regimens
- Universal precautions and special isolation conditions

Skill in:

- Demonstrating technical expertise related to performing specific procedures
- Determining the existence of support structures and using community resources to meet the needs of patients and caregivers
- Evaluating patient competence to make decisions
- Evaluating patient response to treatment/intervention
- Facilitating patient/caregiver adherence to and active participation in treatment
- Formulating and implementing treatment plans in accordance with applicable practice guidelines
- Interfacing in multidisciplinary teams, including education of other health care professionals
- Making appropriate dispositions
- Monitoring and managing nutritional status
- Prioritizing tasks
- Recognizing and initiating treatment for life-threatening conditions
- Using community resources to meet the needs of patients/caregivers

Managing Patients — Pharmaceutical Therapeutics (15%)

Knowledge of:

- Alternative/complementary therapies and their side effects, interactions, and toxicities
- Contraindications
- Drug interactions, including presentation and treatment
- Indications for use
- Mechanism of action
- Methods to reduce medication errors
- Monitoring and follow-up of pharmacologic regimens
- Pharmacokinetics, pharmacogenomics, and pharmacodynamics
- Prescribing, monitoring, and regulating controlled substances
- Presentation and management of adverse effects, allergic reactions, and toxicities
- Special populations requiring drug/dose modification
- Substances of abuse

Skill in:

- Assessing patient adherence to drug regimens
- Drafting a prescription
- Evaluating, treating, and reporting adverse drug reactions and/or adverse effects
- Identifying and managing medication issues
- Maintaining knowledge of relevant pharmacologic agents
- Monitoring pharmacologic regimens and adjusting as appropriate
- Prescribing controlled substances appropriately
- Selecting appropriate pharmacologic therapy and dosing

Applying Foundational Scientific Concepts (8%)

Knowledge of:

- Genetics
- Human anatomy and physiology
- Microbiology
- Pathophysiology
- Immunology
- Pharmacology
- Human behavior (e.g., sociology, psychology)

Skill in:

- Evaluating emerging medical trends critically as they relate to patient care
- Maintaining awareness of trends in infectious disease
- Relating pathophysiologic principles to specific disease processes
- Incorporating evidence-based medicine practices

Professional Practice (6%)

Legal/medical ethics

Knowledge of:

- Informed consent and refusal process
- Living will, advance directives, organ donation, code status (e.g., do not resuscitate, do not intubate), medical power of attorney
- Medicolegal issues
- Patient preferences related to health care (e.g., cultural, religious, gender)
- Patient/provider rights and responsibilities and termination of the patient-provider relationship, including against medical advice
- Privacy, security, and responsibility related to medical record documentation and management

Skill in:

- Caring for patients with cognitive impairment

Medical informatics

Knowledge of:

- Billing/coding to maintain accuracy and completeness for reimbursement and administrative purposes

Skill in:

- Using appropriate medical informatics sources

Patient care and communication (individual patients)

Knowledge of:

- Affordable and effective health care that is patient specific
- Communication and care preferences of diverse patient populations
- Impact of social determinants of health

Skill in:

- Acknowledging and applying patient/provider rights and responsibilities
- Establishing clinical rapport
- Patient-based interactions, including the ability to demonstrate cultural humility and competency
- Providing patient advice and education regarding the informed consent and refusal process
- Providing patient counseling related to end-of-life decisions

PA role in professional practice

Knowledge of:

- Professional and clinical limitations, scope of practice
- Practice parameters: malpractice, mandated reporting, conflict of interest, impaired provider, ethical principles, effects of implicit bias

Skill in:

- Communicating and consulting with members of the health care team

Professional development

Knowledge of:

- Continuing medical education resources

Skill in:

- Critically analyzing evidence-based medicine
- Identifying and interpreting data from medical informatics sources and identifying appropriate reference sources

Public health (population/society)

Knowledge of:

- Basic disaster preparedness and response
- Infection control measures and response to outbreaks
- Occupational health issues as they pertain to health care as well as non–health care workers
- Population health, travel health, and epidemiology of disease states

Skill in:

- Protecting vulnerable populations and recognizing disparities in provision of and access to health care

Risk management

Knowledge of:

- Accountability
- Effective resource management and utilization
- Quality improvement and patient safety

Skill in:

- Ensuring patient safety and avoiding medical errors