

Content Blueprint for the Nephrology CAQ Examination

The Nephrology 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.

Medical Content Categories

1. Chronic Kidney Disease	20%
2. Glomerular Disorders	6%
3. Tubulointerstitial/Viral Disorders	5%
4. Vascular Disorders	3%
5. Systemic Disorders	6%
6. Kidney Transplantation	5%
7. Hypertension	10%
8. Renal Pathophysiology	14%
9. Acute Kidney Injury/Intensive Care Unit Nephrology	11%
10. End-Stage Renal Disease / Dialysis	17%
11. Legal/Ethical Issues and Emerging Topics	3%

Task Categories

A - History and Physical	7%
B - Diagnostic Studies	20%
C - Diagnosis	25%
D - Managing Patients	35%
E - Applying Scientific Concepts	10%
L - Legal/Ethical Issues and Emerging Topics	3%

Medical Content Categories

1. CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE (20%)

- A. Abnormal result of renal function test
 - Change in estimated glomerular filtration rate
 - Stages 1 through 5
 - Structural abnormalities
 - Urine abnormalities
 - Proteinuria
- B. Management of chronic kidney disease
 - Access planning
 - Anemias
 - Bone/mineral disorders
 - Diabetes mellitus
 - Hypertension
 - Hyperuricemia
 - Hyperlipidemia
 - Electrolyte abnormalities
 - Acid-base disorders
 - Palliative care
 - Volume
- C. Adverse drug effects
 - Iatrogenic erectile dysfunction
 - Iatrogenic hyperglycosuria
 - Iatrogenic hypotension
 - NSAID-induced nephropathy
 - Nephrogenic systemic fibrosis

2. GLOMERULAR DISORDERS (6%)

- A. Focal segmental glomerulosclerosis
- B. Goodpasture syndrome
- C. Henoch-Schönlein purpura
- D. IgA nephropathy
- E. Minimal change disease
- F. Membranous nephropathy
- G. Nephrotic-range proteinuria
- H. Nephrotic syndrome

3. TUBULOINTERSTITIAL/VIRAL DISORDERS (5%)

- A. Polycystic kidney
 - Autosomal dominant
 - Autosomal recessive
- B. Urinary tract infection

- C. Nephrolithiasis
- D. HIV nephropathy
- E. Hepatitis B
- F. Hepatitis C

4. VASCULAR DISORDERS (3%)

- A. Polyarteritis nodosa
- B. Thrombotic microangiopathy
- C. ANCA-associated vasculitis
 - Granulomatosis with polyangiitis
 - Eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA)
 - Microscopic polyangiitis (MPA)

5. SYSTEMIC DISORDERS (6%)

- A. Lupus nephritis
- B. Amyloidosis
- C. Sarcoidosis
- D. Sickle cell nephropathy
- E. Multiple myeloma
- F. Alport syndrome
- G. Hepatorenal syndrome

6. KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION (5%)

- A. Pre-transplant
 - Donor/ recipient qualifications
 - Legal/ethical issues
 - Immunizations/health screenings
- B. Post-transplant
 - Immunodeficiency
 - Immunosuppressant medications
 - Neoplasm
 - Pregnancy post-transplant
 - Transplant complications
 - Delayed graft function
 - Post-transplantation lymphoproliferative disorder
 - Rejection
 - Infections

7. HYPERTENSION (10%)

- A. Hypertensive urgency/crisis
- B. Primary hypertension
- C. Secondary hypertension

- Carcinoid syndrome
- Coarctation of the aorta
 - Pregnancy-related
 - Gestational hypertension
 - HELLP syndrome
 - Preeclampsia
 - Obstructive sleep apnea
 - Renovascular
 - Renal artery stenosis
 - Fibromuscular dysplasia
 - Adrenocortical disease
 - Primary hyperaldosteronism
 - Pheochromocytoma
 - Cushing syndrome
 - Drug-induced hypertension

8. RENAL PATHOPHYSIOLOGY (15%)

- A. Age-related renal changes
 - Simple cysts
- B. Acid-base disorders
 - Metabolic acidosis
 - Lactic acidosis
 - Renal tubular acidosis
 - Metabolic alkalosis
- C. Electrolyte abnormalities
 - Sodium
 - SIADH
 - Diabetes insipidus
 - Calcium
 - Potassium
 - Phosphorus
 - Magnesium
 - Zinc
- D. Urine abnormalities
 - Hematuria
 - Proteinuria
 - Electrolytes

9. ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY/INTENSIVE CARE UNIT NEPHROLOGY (12%)

- A. Prerenal
 - Hypovolemia
 - Shock
 - Cardiogenic shock
 - Sepsis
 - Hypotension
 - Cardiorenal
 - Congestive heart failure
 - Hepatorenal

- B. Intrarenal
 - Acute interstitial nephritis
 - Medication (NSAIDs, antibiotics)
 - Acute nephritic syndrome
 - Poststreptococcal glomerulonephritis
 - Acute tubular necrosis
 - Rhabdomyolysis
 - Contrast nephropathy
- C. Postrenal
 - Nephrolithiasis
 - Obstructive uropathy
- D. Continuous renal replacement therapy

10. END-STAGE RENAL DISEASE / DIALYSIS (18%)

- A. Management
 - Adequacy
 - Electrolyte abnormalities
 - Mineral bone disease
 - Secondary hyperparathyroidism
 - Adynamic bone disease
 - Calciphylaxis
 - Hungry bone disease
 - Hypoalbuminemia
 - Anemia
 - Volume
- B. Hemodialysis complications
 - Intradialytic hypotension
 - Infection
 - Access malfunction
 - Dialysis disequilibrium syndrome
- C. Peritoneal dialysis complications
 - Catheter malfunction
 - Peritonitis
 - Constipation