



Geriatric Medicine

Certification Examination Blueprint

What Does the Examination Cover?

The exam is designed to evaluate the extent of the candidate's knowledge and clinical judgment in the areas in which a Geriatrician should demonstrate a high level of competence. Expertise in the broad domain of Geriatric Medicine and the diagnosis and treatment of both common and rare conditions that have important consequences for patients will be assessed.

Exam content is consistent with a pre-established blueprint, or table of specifications. The blueprint is developed by the Geriatric Medicine Test Committee and is reviewed and revised annually to ensure that it is current. In addition, practicing Geriatricians, Geriatric Medicine trainees, and training program directors are surveyed periodically to provide feedback on the blueprinting process. The blueprint is used as a guide in developing the exam.

The majority of questions (over 75 percent) are based on patient presentations occurring in settings that reflect current medical practice. Questions requiring simple recall of medical facts are in the minority; the majority of questions require integration of information from several sources, prioritization of alternatives, and/or utilization of clinical judgment in reaching a correct conclusion. Some questions require interpretation of pictorial material such as imaging studies, including radiographs, computed tomography (CT) scans, and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans.

Topics covered may include general internal medicine as encountered in the practice of Geriatric Medicine.

The content areas covered and their relative proportions on the exam are as follows:

Medical Content Category	Relative Percentage
Gerontology	7%
Diseases in the Elderly	40%
Geriatric Psychiatry	11.5%
Geriatric Syndromes	15.5%
Geropharmacology	10%
Functional Assessment and Rehabilitation	5%
Caring for Elderly Patients	11%
Total	100%

Content Outline of the Certification Examination

This content outline describes a *typical* Geriatric Medicine Certification Examination; actual content on a specific examination may vary. Each medical content category from the examination blueprint is listed in boldface below, along with target blueprint percentage and total number of questions in the category.

Medical Content Category (Relative Percentage)
Gerontology (7%) (13-15 questions in the following areas)
Biology (1%)
Physiology (1.5%)
Demography and epidemiology (2.5%)
Psychology/sociology of aging (1.5%)
Other (0.5%)

Medical Content Category (Relative Percentage)
Diseases in the Elderly (40%) (79-81 questions in the following areas)
Allergy (1%)
Anaphylaxis
Allergic rhinitis
Ocular
Other
Cardiovascular (7%)
Rhythm disturbances
Heart failure
Valvular heart disease
Cor pulmonale
Pericardial diseases
Atherosclerosis
Hypertension
Orthostatic hypotension
Peripheral vascular disease
Syncope
Other
Dermatology (1%)
Environmental etiology
Infections
Seborrheic dermatitis
Psoriasis
Blistering diseases
Pruritus
Benign skin tumors
Acne rosacea
Onychomycosis
Chronic venous insufficiency
Other

Endocrinology (4%)
Diabetes mellitus
Metabolic syndrome
Adrenal disorders
Thyroid disorders
Disorders of calcium metabolism
Osteomalacia
Other
Diabetes insipidus
Gastroenterology (2%)
Esophagus
Upper gastrointestinal bleeding
Stomach and duodenum
Liver
Biliary disease
Pancreas
Inflammatory bowel disease
Sprue
Lower gastrointestinal bleeding
Colonic disease
Other
Genitourinary (2%)
Male genitourinary disorders
Gynecology
Hematology (2.5%)
Decreased blood cell counts
Increased blood cell counts
Coagulation disorders
Thrombotic disorders
Other
Infectious diseases (3.5%)
Atypical presentations
Fever of unknown origin
Respiratory infections
Genitourinary
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection
Intra-abdominal
Neurologic
Bones and joints
Tetanus
Bacteremia/sepsis
Drug-resistant/emergent infections
Other
Nephrology (2%)
Hyponatremia
Hypernatremia
Acute renal failure

Chronic kidney disease
Glomerular disorders
Renovascular disease
Tubulointerstitial nephritis
Acid-base disorders
Other
Neurology (5.5%)
Stroke and transient ischemic attack
Seizures
Movement disorders
Muscle disorders
Neuropathies
Headaches
Aphasias
Myelopathies
Motor neuron disorders
Other
Oncology (1.5%)
Paraneoplastic syndromes
Specific tumors (prevalence, diagnosis, treatment, complications, prognosis, follow-up)
General treatment
Oral health (1.5%)
Dental caries
Periodontal diseases
Candidiasis
Xerostomia
Salivary glands
Temporomandibular joint
Leukoplakia
Dentures
Nutritional deficiencies and oral health
Other

Pulmonary disease (2.5%)
Asthma and bronchospasm
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
Interstitial lung diseases
Primary pulmonary hypertension
Pulmonary thromboembolism
Pleural diseases
Adult respiratory distress syndrome
Acute respiratory failure
Other
Rheumatology/musculoskeletal (3%)
Osteoarthritis
Osteoporosis
Musculoskeletal conditions (epidemiology, diagnosis, non-pharmacologic and pharmacologic management)
Crystal deposition disease
Polymyalgia rheumatica and giant cell arteritis
Rheumatoid arthritis
Sjögren's syndrome
Systemic lupus erythematosus
Dermatomyositis and polymyositis
Amyloidosis
Paget's disease
Vasculitis
Lyme disease
Scleroderma
Other
Ear, Nose, Throat Other than Hearing Loss (0.5%)
Ophthalmology Other than Vision Loss (0.5%)

Medical Content Category (Relative Percentage)
Geriatric Psychiatry (11.5%) (22-24 questions in the following areas)
Dementia (4%)
Depression (2.5%)
Bipolar disorder (0.5%)
Anxiety (1%)
Schizophrenia, psychosis, hallucinations (1%)
Alcohol and substance abuse (2%)
Personality disorders and hypochondriasis (0.5%)

Medical Content Category (Relative Percentage)
Geriatric Syndromes (15.5%) (30-32 questions in the following areas)
Delirium (3%)
Dizziness/lightheadedness (1%)
Falls and gait disorders (2%)
Sensory loss (1%)
Incontinence (2%)
Consequences of immobility (2%)
Sleep disorders (1%)
Pain (2%)
Malnutrition (1%)
Frailty (0.5%)

Medical Content Category (Relative Percentage)
Geropharmacology (10%) (19-21 questions as follows)
Age-related changes (2%)
Adverse drug events (2%)
Prescribing principles (2%)
Drug interactions (2%)
Complementary and alternative medications (2%)

Medical Content Category (Relative Percentage)
Functional Assessment and Rehabilitation (5%) (9-11 questions as follows)
Conceptual models of disablement (0.5%)
Assessment of disability (0.5%)
Assessment of rehabilitation potential (0.5%)
Aspects of rehabilitation (1%)
Interdisciplinary team
Assistive devices
Adaptive equipment
Therapeutic modalities
Orthotics
Prosthetics
Environmental modifications
Rehabilitation settings (0.5%)
Insurance issues (0.5%)
Rehabilitation of common conditions (1.5%)

Medical Content Category (Relative Percentage)
Caring for Elderly Patients (11%) (21-23 questions as follows)
Preventive medicine (2%)
Economic aspects of health care (1.5%)
Healthcare delivery systems (1%)
Ethical principles of care (1%)
Caregiver and family concerns (2%)
Cultural aspects of aging (1%)
End-of-life and palliative care (1.5%)
Elder mistreatment (1%)