



## Hospital Medicine

### Maintenance of 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 hospitalist should demonstrate a high level of competence. Expertise in the broad domain of hospital 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 Hospital Medicine Exam-Writing Committee and is reviewed and revised annually to ensure that it is current. In addition, practicing hospitalists, hospital 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.

Most questions (over 75 percent) are based on patient presentations occurring in the hospital and reflect current medical practice in that setting. Questions requiring simple recall of medical facts are in the minority; most 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, including but not limited to imaging studies (such as radiographs, computed tomograms, and magnetic resonance images), and electrocardiograms.

Topics covered may include the following:

- In-patient diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the organ systems within the scope of internal medicine, including palliative care and the treatment of pain
- Transitions of care from the hospital to the ambulatory setting for patients with disorders within the scope of internal medicine as well as patients needing continuing out-patient palliative care and treatment for pain
- The consultative role of the hospitalist in the peri-operative co-management of patients hospitalized for general or orthopedic surgery, obstetric or gynecologic disorders, or ophthalmologic or otolaryngologic disorders
- General principles of patient safety and quality improvement, including healthcare and associated infections, universal protocols, medication errors and adverse effects, inter-professional communication, hazards of immobility, prevention strategies to reduce medical errors, principles of error disclosure, and resource utilization and cost containment
- Basic principles of epidemiology, screening for hospital-based disease, assessment of diagnosis and treatment, and decision analysis
- Fundamentals of clinical ethics; the physician-patient relationship, physician conflict of interest, and shared decision-making, including decisions regarding life-sustaining interventions and the ethical issues surrounding HIV infections, organ transplantation, and genetic testing for diseases
- General internal medicine as encountered in the practice of hospital medicine (including some general pediatrics with an emphasis on adolescent medicine)

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

Medical Content Category	Relative Percentage
In-Patient Medicine	46%
Transitions / Ambulatory Medicine	16%
Consultative Co-Management	16%
Patient Safety and Quality Improvement	16%
Epidemiology	2%
Medical Ethics and Decision-Making	4%
Total	100%

## Content Outline of the Certification Examination

This content outline describes a *typical* Hospital 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. Within each category, the approximate distribution of questions in specified areas is also listed.

Medical Content Category (Relative Percentage)	Number of Questions
<b>In-Patient Medicine (46%)</b>	<b>99-103 as follows:</b>
<b>Cardiology</b>	<b>12-16</b>
<b>Pulmonary Medicine</b>	<b>9-13</b>
<b>Gastroenterology / Nutrition</b>	<b>8-12</b>
<b>Rheumatology</b>	<b>6-10</b>
<b>Endocrinology</b>	<b>6-10</b>
<b>Hematology / Oncology</b>	<b>11-15</b>
<b>Infectious Disease</b>	<b>7-11</b>
<b>Nephrology / Urology</b>	<b>4-8</b>
<b>Allergy / Immunology / Dermatology</b>	<b>5-9</b>
<b>Psychiatry / Neurology</b>	<b>6-10</b>
<b>Palliative Care / Pain Management</b>	<b>5-9</b>
<b>Transitions / Ambulatory Medicine (16%)</b>	<b>33-37 as follows:</b>
<b>Cardiology</b>	<b>4-6</b>
<b>Pulmonary Medicine</b>	<b>6-8</b>
<b>Gastroenterology / Nutrition</b>	<b>6-8</b>
<b>Rheumatology</b>	<b>1-3</b>
<b>Endocrinology</b>	<b>1-3</b>
<b>Hematology / Oncology</b>	<b>4-6</b>
<b>Infectious Disease</b>	<b>2-4</b>
<b>Nephrology / Urology</b>	<b>1-3</b>
<b>Allergy / Immunology / Dermatology</b>	<b>1-3</b>
<b>Psychiatry / Neurology</b>	<b>2-4</b>
<b>Palliative Care / Pain Management</b>	<b>2-4</b>
<b>Consultative Co-Management (16%)</b>	<b>33-37 as follows:</b>
<b>Perioperative Care</b>	<b>10-15</b>
<b>Obstetrics / Gynecology</b>	<b>4-5</b>
<b>Ophthalmology / Otolaryngology</b>	<b>4-5</b>
<b>General Surgery</b>	<b>10-15</b>
<b>Orthopedic Surgery</b>	<b>7-8</b>

Medical Content Category (Relative Percentage)	Number of Questions
<b>Patient Safety and Quality Improvement (16%)</b>	<b>33-37 as follows:</b>
General Concepts	5-7
Healthcare-Associated Infections	3-6
Medication Errors and Adverse Drug Effects	4-7
Interprofessional / Interdisciplinary Communications and Professionalism	0-3
Universal Protocols	4-5
Hazards of Immobility and Bed Rest	1-3
Prevention Strategies for Medical Errors	1-3
Principles of Error Disclosure	1-3
Resource Utilization / Cost Containment	0-3

<b>Epidemiology (2%)</b>	<b>2-5 as follows:</b>
Screening for Disease	0-2
Assessment of Diagnosis and Treatment	0-2
Basic Epidemiology	1-3
Decision Analysis	1-3

<b>Medical Ethics and Decision-Making (4%)</b>	<b>7-11 as follows:</b>
Fundamentals of Clinical Ethics	1-3
Shared Decision-Making	0-2
Decisions Concerning Life-Sustaining Interventions	0-2
Physician-Patient Relationship	0-2
Physician Conflict of Interest	0-1
Ethical Issues in HIV Infections	0-2
Ethical Issues in Organ Transplantation	0-2
Testing for Genetic Disorders	0-1