

Nurse Practitioner Certification Examination

Name:

Institution:

Course:

Due Date:

Among the two certification exams that are available for a nurse practitioner, the exam selected was American Nurses Credentialing Center (AANP). The AANP exam details a three hour test which has around 150 questions. The reason AANP was selected as the certification exam was because it helps a nurse practitioner attain extra credentials as regards pursuing a license, going on with the practice, or pursuing higher education or even put themselves in fields relevant to nursing (Buppert, 2015). Additionally, in case a candidate fails to pass the certification exam they have the option of applying for a retake although they will undertake some hours of education. This means that one can get a chance to correct on previous mistakes.

Firstly I plan to attend a review course, where I will select the review by Margaret Fitzgerald. The reason I selected the Fitzgerald review is because she is described as the queen of the nursing practitioner review. In her review Fitzgerald presents information in such a manner that it is easy and encouraging which meant I would be able to enjoy the process of studying (Kapu, & Kleinpell, 2013). Due to the work schedule, finances, as well as school I might not be able to attend a trip to a live session but I plan to buy the prerecorded MP3 reviews which I will listen to during my free time. In addition, the purchased product includes a review book along with an online access to more study material (Fitzgerald, Wong, Hannon, Tokerud, & Lyons, 2013).

When the time will come for me to prepare for the exam, I plan to use *Family Nurse Practitioner Certification Intensive Review* by Maria Leik. By this time I am sure I will be tired by lectures and learning new things hence the book by Maria will greatly help as it breaks information by the system and is laser-aimed as regards its presentation of information. The book also has more than 600 questions and answers that could be quite useful with regards to preparing for the test. Continually, another book that I look forward to using will be *Nurse Practitioner Certification Exam and Practice Preparation* by Margaret Fitzgerald. From several

reviews and communication with colleagues that who have completed the certification, Fitzgerald is described as a dynamo with regards to nursing practitioner preparation (Fitzgerald, et al, 2013). For instance, the book presents not only answers but has detailed explanations of the entire topic. Hence, I will be using the two books since Leik's books present fast facts while Fitzgerald presents an in-depth analysis.

NP Practice in Maryland

In the year 2015, Maryland became the 21st state in the United States to permit nurse practitioners to practice individually of a physician. Following the signing of the *Nurse Practitioner Full Practice Authority Act* by the governor, nurse practitioners were permitted to prescribe specific drugs individual without needing an agreement with physicians (Kaplan, 2015). In Maryland, the Act not only freed collaborative agreements for nurse practitioners but also directed that an independent nurse practitioner had the permission to start their clinic. However, some of the nurse practitioners were expected to create collaborative agreements. Earlier, there were groups opposing the enactment of the law in Maryland due to concerns on the full-practice authority law, arguing that the nurse practitioners lacked that ability to give the same quality of care when compared to a licensed physician. The recommendations were that the nurse practitioners ought to work under a licensed physician. However following consultations, all stakeholders in Maryland were able to agree and the bill was passed which meant that all earlier concerns were removed (Kaplan, 2015). In the present day, the nurse practitioner practice environment could be described as being friendly and accommodative with the populace enjoying the fruits of enhanced access to healthcare.

Strengths identified from the FHEA Exit Exam

Firstly, Fitzgerald programs are quite easy to implement and monitor due to the fact that they are able to supplement university curriculum effectively and efficiently. In addition, they are able to give the student lectures that come from nationally acknowledged nurse practitioners professionals in fields comprising of; pathophysiology, pharmacology, laboratory diagnosis, along with certification review. The Fitzgerald Testing package is able to aid in tracking of student progress and classify areas where additional education is required (Hooker, Brock, & Cook, 2016). The resources that are available could be given to students and as a result help them if they need remediation.

The second strength by Fitzgerald exam is that it presents the most wide-ranging, present as well as appropriate evidence-based review present. Utilizing the Fitzgerald review will aid in enhancing a student's university pass rates as well as boost their student's confidence while taking an exam. Following the completion of the exam, students are able to prepare for clinical rotations as well as practice. The exam and course questions aid students in getting to know their strengths as well as parts that need improvement through further study.

Lastly, Fitzgerald presents students with in-depth testing packages. From the testing packages, reports could be derived that comprise of the general score as well as personal topic scores; most importantly the Exit Exam comprises of domain scores. Continually, the testing is able to get rid of time-consuming tasks in the faculty that comprises of writing and grading tests and safeguards the preceptor base through making sure that students are ready to excel in their clinical rotations. By using Fitzgerald Exit Exam, the students are prepared for certification, graduation, as well as practice in the nursing world.

Weakness identified by the FHEA Exit Exam

A weakness that arises by students carrying out the FHEA Exit Exam is the lack of ample time since in most cases one is either working or busy with other tasks. In the scenario that one decides to buy all resources for the course, it will prove to be quite expensive since the materials are many and some have expensive price tags. The fact that studying at home is quite hard due to distractions is also another problem one can face in the process of taking the exam (Li, Harmer, Stock, Fitzgerald, Stevens, Gladieux, & Voit, 2013).

So as to address the challenges, the student can find ample time in a cool restaurant or a library where one uses thirty minutes to one hour for their studies. Continually, instead of buying all the books students could cost share and purchase them or even borrow from their colleagues. Continually reviewing the progress that one is making towards the FHEA Exit Exam will greatly help in the achievement of the goal at the end of learning.

References

- Buppert, C. (2015). *Nurse practitioner's business practice and legal guide*. Jones & Bartlett Learning.
- Fitzgerald, L., Wong, P., Hannon, J., Tokerud, M. S., & Lyons, J. (2013). Curriculum learning designs: teaching health assessment skills for advanced nursing practitioners through sustainable flexible learning. *Nurse education today*, 33(10), 1230-1236.
- Hooker, R. S., Brock, D. M., & Cook, M. L. (2016). Characteristics of nurse practitioners and physician assistants in the United States. *Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners*, 28(1), 39-46.
- Kaplan, L. (2015). Maryland's Nurse Practitioner Full Practice Authority Act of 2015. *The Nurse Practitioner*, 40(5), 8.
- Kapu, A. N., & Kleinpell, R. (2013). Developing nurse practitioner associated metrics for outcomes assessment. *Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners*, 25(6), 289-296.
- Li, F., Harmer, P., Stock, R., Fitzgerald, K., Stevens, J., Gladieux, M., ... & Voit, J. (2013). Implementing an evidence-based fall prevention program in an outpatient clinical setting. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, 61(12), 2142-2149.