

# Certification Examination for Physician Nutrition Specialists



NATIONAL BOARD OF  
PHYSICIAN NUTRITION  
SPECIALISTS

## Candidate Handbook 2025

Application Deadline*	Testing Window
April 16, 2025	May 17 – May 31, 2025

**\*Applications will not be accepted after this date**

Administered by:



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[www.ptcny.com/contact](http://www.ptcny.com/contact)

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*This Handbook contains necessary information about the Certification Examination for Physician Nutrition Specialists, retain it for future reference. Candidates are responsible for reading these instructions carefully. This Handbook is subject to change.*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

<p><b>Professional Testing Corporation (PTC)</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.ptcny.com">www.ptcny.com</a></p> <p>(212) 356-0660</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply for examination</li> <li>• Obtain general application information</li> <li>• Obtain information about testing policies</li> <li>• Transfer to a new Testing Period</li> <li>• Request Test Accommodations</li> <li>• Request Score Verification</li> <li>• Question about score reports</li> <li>• Miscellaneous inquiries</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prometric</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.prometric.com/NBPNS">www.prometric.com/NBPNS</a></p> <p>(800) 741-0934</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schedule test appointment</li> <li>• Reschedule test appointment (within a testing period)</li> <li>• Cancel test appointment</li> <li>• Find directions to test site</li> <li>• Questions regarding testing sites and appointments</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Board of Physician Nutrition Specialists (NBPNS)</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.nbpns.org">http://www.nbpns.org</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Information</li> <li>• Maintenance of Certification</li> </ul>

## ATTENTION CANDIDATES

This handbook contains necessary information about the NBPNS Certification Examination for Physician Nutrition Specialists. It is required reading for those applying and taking the examination. All individuals applying for the examination must comply with the policies, procedures, and deadlines in this Handbook and attest to this by signing the Candidate Attestation found on the application. Retain this handbook for future reference. This handbook is subject to change. See [www.ptcny.com](http://www.ptcny.com) for handbook updates.

**ACCESSING CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES AT ANY TIME WHILE YOU ARE TAKING THE EXAM IS PROHIBITED. YOU CAN ONLY REMOVE SNACKS, DRINKS, MEDICINE OR PERSONAL HEALTHCARE ITEMS FROM YOUR LOCKER- NO BACKPACKS, BAGS, POCKETBOOKS OR CLOTHING CAN BE REMOVED WHILE YOUR EXAM IS IN SESSION.**

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## CERTIFICATION

The National Board of Physician Nutrition Specialists (NBPNS) endorses the concept of voluntary, periodic certification for physicians to become nutrition specialists. Our certification is one part of a process called credentialing, focusing specifically on physicians, and is an indication of current competence in a specialized area of medical practice. Board certification in medical nutrition is highly valued and provides formal recognition of nutrition practice by providers.

Certification as a Physician Nutrition specialist provides formal recognition of knowledge and practice in the field by:

1. Recognizing formally those individuals who meet the eligibility requirements of the National Board of Physician Nutrition Specialists (NBPNS) and pass the Certification Examination for Physician Nutrition Specialists.
2. Encouraging continued personal and professional growth in the practice of medical nutrition.
3. Establishing and measuring the level of knowledge required for certification as a physician nutrition specialist.
4. Providing a standard of knowledge requisite for certification; thereby assisting the employer, public, and members of the health professions in the assessment of the physician nutrition specialist.

The NBPNS credential is not creditable toward the requirements for licensure to practice medicine in the United States.

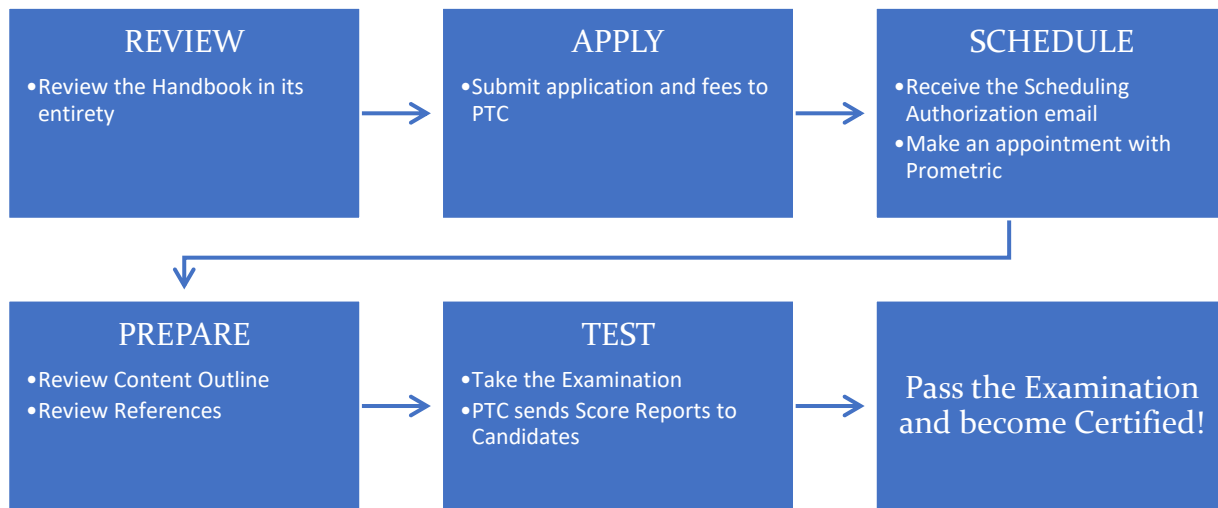
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## DEFINITION OF PHYSICIAN NUTRITION SPECIALIST

A physician nutrition specialist (PNS) is a provider with training in nutrition who devotes a substantial career effort in nutrition and who can assume a leadership role in coordinating interdisciplinary clinical nutrition services and education in academic health centers, other medical centers, private practice, and other health care settings. PNS generally have backgrounds in the specialties of internal medicine, pediatrics, family medicine, or general surgery, and sometimes in subspecialties such as adult or pediatric gastroenterology, endocrinology, critical care, nephrology, cardiology, and others. They have completed a period of defined nutrition training that includes mastery of core nutrition knowledge and a mentored clinical nutrition experience; this training may be obtained in a nutrition fellowship or as part of training in another subspecialty. PNS have satisfied all requirements of, and are certified by, the National Board of Physician Nutrition Specialists.

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## THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS



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## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to take the Certification Examination for Physician Nutrition Specialists, a candidate must meet three requirements:

1. Current licensure to practice medicine in the U.S., or the equivalent in other countries. All candidates for certification and recertification must be licensed to practice medicine in the country in which they reside.
2. Demonstrated expertise in nutrition defined by **two** or more of the following: \*
  - a. Mentored training in clinical nutrition (requires letter of recommendation from mentor).
  - b. Dedicated service on a hospital Multidisciplinary Nutrition Team (requires letter of recommendation from hospital chief of staff or physician head of department).
  - c. Performance of research with publications in nutrition (provide documentation on curriculum vitae).
  - d. Either of the following:
    - Teaching position involving nutrition at an academic medical center (requires letter of recommendation from department chairman) OR
    - Personal statement describing the applicant's current clinical practice and how the application integrates nutrition management in their practice **AND** a letter of support by an NBPNS Diplomate attesting to the applicant's expertise in nutrition.

- e. Committee membership and/or leadership role in a national nutrition society (provide documentation on curriculum vitae).
- f. Completion of a minimum of 75 or more hours of Continuing Medical Education (CME) devoted to clinical nutrition (provide CME documentation).
- g. Regional peer-recognized leadership role in nutrition (requires letter of recommendation from peer in community).

*Final acceptance of eligibility is subject to satisfactory review by the NBPNS Board.*

\*Requirements for eligibility have been revised due to the fact that at the present time, positions for formal training in clinical nutrition are limited. Requirements will be re-evaluated on an annual basis, as increasing opportunities for training emerge in the future.

- 4. Completion and filing of an Application for the Certification Examination for Physician Nutrition Specialists, **including copies of the candidate's current medical license and board certification.**
- 5. Payment of required fee.

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## COMPLETION OF APPLICATION

### ***Step 1 – Fill Out the Application***

- Go to <http://www.ptcny.com/test-sponsors/NBPNS>
  - View testing periods and application deadlines
  - Fill out online application completely and upload supporting documentation.
    - Use your first and last name exactly as it appears on your current driver's license, passport, state issued non-driver ID or military ID.
    - Applications are not complete until all information, documentation, and payment has been provided.
    - When you start a new application, you will be asked to create a user account and password. Keep this information for later use.

### ***Step 2 – Submit Exam Fee and Application for Review***

PTC will send you an email that says that your payment and application have been received and are being reviewed. Please Allow up to 10 business days for review.

### ***Step 3 – Receive Application Status Update***

- After your application is reviewed PTC will update you with another email.
  - **REOPENED FOR MORE DOCUMENTS**
    - This means we are missing the required documentation. Follow the directions in the email.
    - Applications that are incomplete as of 21 days before the start of the testing window will be refunded minus the administration fee (see fees page 9).
  - **REJECTED**
    - This means you are not eligible to take the exam. The reason will be explained in the email.
    - Rejected applications will be refunded minus the administration fee (see fees page 9)

○ **APPROVED**

- This means your application is approved. You will move on to Step 4.

**Step 4 – Receive Scheduling Authorization and Schedule Testing Appointment**

- Approved candidates will receive an email with their Scheduling Authorization, within 11 weeks before the start of the testing window. Scheduling Authorization emails come from notices@ptcny.com. Do not lose this email.
- If you don't receive your Scheduling Authorization email 3 weeks before the start of your testing window, contact PTC.

The Scheduling Authorization includes important information including:

- Your PTC Candidate ID number
- Instructions on how to make your Exam appointment with Prometric.

**Applicants who are not approved to sit for the examination or whose applications are incomplete 21 days prior to the first day of the testing window will receive a refund of their application fee minus the \$75 administrative fee. Refunds will be processed approximately 30 days after the end of the testing period.**

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## EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION AND SCHEDULING

The Certification Examination for Physician Nutrition Specialists is administered during an established two-week testing window on a daily basis, excluding holidays, at computer-based testing facilities managed by Prometric.

### Scheduling Examination Appointments

Follow the steps on your Scheduling Authorization to schedule your examination appointment with Prometric.



- Appointment times are first-come, first-served, so schedule your appointment as soon as you receive your Scheduling Authorization.
- **Candidates who wait until the last minute run the risk of missing out on their preferred date, time, and/or testing center. Candidates unable to schedule an appointment will forfeit their fees.**

After you make your test appointment, Prometric will send you a confirmation email with the date, time, and location of your exam. Check this confirmation carefully and contact Prometric at (800) 741-0934 if you do not receive this email confirmation or if there is a mistake with your appointment.

**Note: International candidates may also schedule, reschedule, or cancel an appointment online at <http://www.prometric.com/NBPNS>.**

**IMPORTANT!**

You **MUST** present your current driver's license, passport, or U.S. military ID at the test center. Expired, temporary, or paper driver's licenses will **NOT** be accepted.

The first and last name on your Scheduling Authorization **MUST** exactly match the first and last name on your photo ID. **Fees will not be refunded for exams missed because of invalid ID.**

## Rescheduling Examination Appointments within a Testing Period

Candidates can reschedule their examination appointments within the same testing period as long as the request is submitted within the timeframe described below. Reschedule within the permitted time frame by calling or going to the Prometric website: [www.prometric.com/NBPNS](http://www.prometric.com/NBPNS).

Time Frame	Reschedule Permitted?	Stipulations
Requests submitted 30 days or more before the original appointment	Yes	None
Requests submitted 29 to 5 days before the original appointment	Yes	Candidate must pay Prometric a rescheduling fee of \$50.
Requests submitted less than 5 days before the original appointment	No	Candidates who do not arrive to test for their appointment will be considered a no-show and all their examinations fees will be forfeited. Candidates will need to reapply and pay full examination fees for a future testing period.

## Transferring to a New Testing Period

Candidates unable to take the examination during their scheduled testing period\* may request a **ONE-TIME** transfer to a future testing period. **There is a transfer fee of \$270.00.** After you have transferred once by paying the \$270.00 fee, you will need to pay the examination fee in order to transfer a second time; so, **plan carefully.**

**Note:** requests to transfer to a new testing period must be received within 12 months of your originally scheduled testing period.

Candidates wishing to transfer to a new testing period need to follow the steps below.

1. Go to [apply.ptcny.com](http://apply.ptcny.com).
2. Click "Transfer Existing Application."
3. PTC Support will send you an email letting you know your transfer application was approved and that you can log back into your application and pay the one-time \$270.00 transfer fee.

Call 212-356-0660 if you have any questions regarding the transfer process.

If candidates are unable to attend the examination on the date for which they registered and elect not to transfer to another testing period, the application will be closed and all fees will be forfeited. There will be no refund of fees.



The transfer fee is based on costs and is not punitive in nature. The transfer fee must be paid at the time the request is approved.

Note: Transferring your Examination only refers to instances when a candidate is unable to take their exam during a testing period for which they have already applied. Candidates who did not pass their examination and are retaking the examination need to pay the full Examination Fee.

***\*If your appointment is cancelled by Prometric please contact PTC for further instruction.***

## Failing to Report for an Examination



If you fail to report for an examination, you will forfeit all fees paid to take the examination. A completed application form and examination fee are required to reapply for the examination.

## EXAMINATION FEES

Fee Type	Amount	Details
Examination Fee	US \$800.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-refundable</li> <li>• Non-transferable</li> <li>• Includes testing center fees</li> <li>• Includes non-refundable \$75 administrative fee</li> </ul>
Recertification Fee	US \$450.00	
Rescheduling Fee (29-5 days prior to scheduled appointment; see page 7)	US \$50.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Applies to candidates who need to move their appointment within their current testing period</b></li> <li>• Payable directly to Prometric</li> <li>• Reschedule with Prometric online or over the phone</li> </ul>
Transfer Fee (Moving to a new testing window; see page 7)	US \$270.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Applies to candidates who need to move to a new testing period</b></li> <li>• Must submit new application &amp; fee to PTC</li> </ul>
Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Fee	US \$395.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOC information and application are found at <a href="https://ptcny.com/test-sponsors/nbpns/">https://ptcny.com/test-sponsors/nbpns/</a></li> </ul>



- **There will be no refund of fees unless applicants are ineligible for the examination.**
- **Ineligible candidates will be refunded their fees minus an administrative fee.**
- **No refunds will be issued for applying for the incorrect examination or testing period, for failing to make an examination appointment, or for failing to appear at your scheduled appointment.**

**Be advised: Prometric does not have the authority to grant transfers to another testing period or refunds.**

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## TEST ACCOMMODATIONS

NBPNS and PTC support the intent of and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and will take steps reasonably necessary to make testing accessible to persons with disabilities covered under the ADA. According to the ADA, an individual with a disability is a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity (such as seeing, hearing, learning, reading, concentrating, or walking) or a major bodily function (such as neurological, endocrine, or digestive system).

The information you provide and any documentation regarding your disability and test accommodations is confidential and is not included in scoring or reporting.

All approved testing accommodations must maintain the psychometric nature and security of the examination. Accommodations that fundamentally alter the nature or security of the exam will not be granted. Note that accommodations for an examination (test accommodations) may not be the same as accommodations provided by your employer for your job. You can find more information about testing accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act ([www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov)).

Requests for Test Accommodations must be uploaded with the candidate's application and fees at least 8 weeks before the start of your testing period. You must complete and upload both Part 1 and Part 2 of this Form at the same time. Missing information or incomplete Forms will result in a delay in processing. **If your Form is incomplete and/or not received at least 8 weeks before the start of the testing period, we cannot guarantee that we can make these test accommodations in time for you to test and you may need to transfer to another testing period and pay the transfer fee.**

To request test accommodations, follow these 3 steps:

1. Download the Request for Test Accommodations Form, available from [www.ptcny.com](http://www.ptcny.com) or by calling PTC at (212) 356-0660.
2. Complete Test Accommodations Form with your doctor/healthcare professional.
3. Upload the completed and signed Request for Test Accommodations Form with the online exam application. Submit your application at least 8 weeks prior to the start of your chosen testing period.

### NOTES:

- Only those requests made and received on the official Request for Test Accommodations Form will be reviewed.
- All requests must be made at the time of application. Accommodations cannot be added to an existing exam appointment.

- Do not go to [www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com) or contact Prometric to request test accommodations as they are not authorized to approve accommodations. All requests for test accommodations must be submitted on the PTC Request Form.
- If you need to use your cell phone or another electronic device to monitor a medical condition, such as diabetes, be sure to include this on Part 1 of the Request for Test Accommodations Form so that we can notify Prometric in advance.
- If you are a nursing parent and will need to use a breast pump during your exam, complete Part 1 of the Request for Test Accommodations Form and submit it at least 8 weeks before your testing period to allow time to make suitable arrangements at the test center.
- Only pre-approved test accommodations will be permitted on the day of the examination. Test center personnel are not authorized to make any changes to the test accommodations on the day of the testing session and any such change may result in your examination score being canceled.

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## PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATION

- Check your driver’s license, passport, non-driver state issued ID or U.S. Military ID.
  - Is it expired?
  - Does the first and last name on your ID match the first and last name on your Scheduling Authorization email?
  - Proctors at the Prometric testing center will refuse admission to candidates with expired ID, IDs with names that do not match their records, and temporary paper IDs. Candidates will be marked as no-shows and will forfeit their exam fees.
- Check your PTC Scheduling Authorization email and Prometric Appointment Confirmation email to make sure everything is accurate (i.e., your first and last name, exam name, appointment date, time and location).
- Make yourself familiar with the location of your test center and parking options and check the weather and traffic conditions before you leave for the test center. Allow plenty of time as late arrival may prevent you from testing.
- In the event of inclement weather, check the Prometric website for site closures: <https://www.prometric.com/closures>
- Prometric’s website provides information on what you can expect on your test day, including a walkthrough of check in and security procedures: <https://www.prometric.com/test-center-security>.
- Review What to Expect at the Test Center and Rules for the Examination on the next pages before your appointment.
- Review Prometric’s Software Tutorial: <https://www.ptcny.com/pdf/prometricsoftwaretutorial.pdf>

## Preparing for the examination

- This Handbook provides the Content Outline for the Examination (see appendix). Use this to help you start studying for the examination.
- Take the NPBNS Practice test: <https://secure.ptcny.com/webtest>
- Review the National Board of Physician Nutrition Specialist website: [www.nbpns.org](http://www.nbpns.org)
- Review the Exam Preparation page on the NBPNS website: <https://nbpns.org/certification/exam-preparation/>

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## WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE TESTING CENTER

- Candidate Check-In
  - Candidates will be asked to:
    - present their IDs.
    - empty and turn out their pockets.
    - walk through a metal detector or get “wanded”.
  - Eyeglasses, jewelry, and other accessories will be inspected.
    - Jewelry other than wedding and engagement rings is prohibited.
    - Leave these at home or place them in your locker.
  - Religious headwear may be worn into the testing room; however, it is subject to inspection by test center staff.
  - Prometric provides lockers to store purses, backpacks, mobile phones, jackets, food, drinks and medical supplies.
  - Water in a clear plastic containers (no labels) may be brought into the testing room.
- During the Exam
  - No breaks are scheduled during the exam.
  - Candidates are only permitted to leave the testing room to use the restroom or access food, drink, or medicine from their assigned locker. The exam timer will NOT be paused.
  - Smoking is prohibited at the testing center.
  - All examinations are monitored and may be recorded in both audio and video format.
- Keep in mind:
  - Other exams will be administered at the same time as your examination.
  - You may hear ambient noises such as typing, coughing, or people entering and exiting the testing room that cannot be avoided.
  - Prometric is unable to provide a completely noise-free environment.
  - Headphones may be requested to minimize the impact of ambient noise.
  - Proctors will periodically walk through the testing room as part of their monitoring process.
  - See [Prometric’s website](#) for more information about what to expect on testing day.

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## RULES FOR THE EXAMINATION

Read the information below carefully. You are responsible for adhering to the examination rules while at the testing center.

⇒ DO NOT BRING

These items are strictly prohibited at the testing center. Leave these items in your car or your assigned locker.

- Cell phones and all other electronic devices
- Watches
- Jackets/coats/bulky clothing such as sweatshirts
- Hats (except hats worn for religious reasons)
- Jewelry, including watches and wearable technology.



⇒ You may NOT access the following at any time during your exam or breaks: papers, books, any reference materials; electronic devices including your cell phone. Candidates may access the following items from their locker: snacks, drinks, medicine, or other personal healthcare items.

⇒ No questions concerning content of the examination may be asked during the examination session. Read carefully the directions that are provided on screen at the beginning of the examination session.

⇒ You are prohibited from leaving the testing room while your examination is in session, except for going to the restroom. Candidates who do go to their lockers or the restroom will need to repeat the security screening before being permitted to reenter the testing room. **Candidates who leave the center will have their examinations terminated.**

⇒ See [Prometric's statement on Test Center Security](#) for more information.

Contact PTC at (212) 356-0660 or [www.ptcny.com/contact](http://www.ptcny.com/contact) with any questions about the Examination Rules.

**Irregular or improper behavior that is observed, made apparent by statistical analysis, or uncovered by other means before, during or after the examination will be considered a violation of these rules and may constitute grounds for invalidation of a candidate's examination. NBPNS will initiate an investigation and request suitable analyses and appropriate documentation.**

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## TESTING CONDITIONS OR EXAMINATION FEEDBACK

Any candidate who feels that the examination effort was negatively impacted by the test center conditions should notify the proctor immediately. The situation should also be reported to PTC at [www.ptcny.com/contact](http://www.ptcny.com/contact) within 15 days of the test appointment. Any comments about the test itself should also be reported to PTC at [www.ptcny.com/contact](http://www.ptcny.com/contact) within 15 days of the test appointment.

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## REPORT OF RESULTS

Candidates will be notified via email approximately four weeks after the close of the testing period whether they have passed or failed the examination. Scores on the major areas of the examination and on the total examination will be reported. Successful candidates will also receive certificates from the NBPNS. Failure to receive the report of the results should be reported to the Professional Testing Corporation at (212) 356-0660.

### Requesting an Examination Score Verification

Candidates who fail the examination may request a score verification of their data file. Score Verification is a manual check of the data file by the testing service to determine if there have been any errors in scoring. Although the probability of such an error is extremely remote, this service is available. Requests for score verification must be received by PTC no later than 90 days after the date of the examination by completing and returning the Request for Score Verification form on [www.ptcny.com](http://www.ptcny.com) with payment of \$35. Candidates who fail the examination will not be permitted to see the examination questions. For reasons of test security, no candidate is allowed to review the examination or any of its items.

To ensure correct reporting of results, PTC automatically performs score verification of examinations of candidates who score within 3 points of passing as a quality control measure. Thus, it is extremely doubtful that any examination results will change from “fail” to “pass” through score verification.

### Confidentiality

NBPNS will release the individual test scores ONLY to the individual candidate. Any questions concerning test results should be referred to NBPNS or to PTC.

### Reexamination

The Certification Examination for Physician Nutrition Specialists may be taken as often as desired upon filing of a new Application and fee. There is no limit to the number of times the examination may be repeated.

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## EXAMINATION SECURITY

Candidates seeking admission to take the examination do so for the purpose of pursuing registration, and for no other purpose. Because of the confidential nature of the examination, candidates may not make or keep copies, excerpts, or notes of examination materials, and to not use or divulge information learned from the examination. The examination is the exclusive property of NBPNS and candidates may not use examination information in any way without the express prior written consent of NBPNS.

The NBPNS examination is confidential. Candidates are required to sign a confidentiality agreement prior to the start of the examination.

Candidates agree to abide by the testing rules in effect at the time of their test appointment. NBPNS, PTC, and/or Prometric staff may refuse a candidate admission to the examination if they do not have the proper identification as detailed in the Candidate Handbook. Candidates who do not abide by the testing rules may have their exam terminated during the exam administration in order to maintain a secure and proper exam administration and/or exam scores invalidated.

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## ATTAINMENT OF CERTIFICATION & RECERTIFICATION

A registry of Certified Physician Nutrition Specialists is maintained by the NBPNS and is posted on its website. Persons who take and pass the examination acknowledge and agree that their names will be posted on the NBPNS website.

Physician Nutrition Specialist certification is recognized for a period of 10 years at which time the candidate must retake and pass the current Certification Examination for Physician Nutrition Specialists or meet such alternative requirements as are in effect at that time in order to retain certification (i.e. maintenance of certification, MOC).

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## REVOCAION OF CERTIFICATION

Certification will be revoked for any of the following reasons:

1. Falsification of an Application.
2. Revocation of current physician license.
3. Misrepresentation of certification status.
4. Misuse of the NBPNS credential or trademark by associating it with unscientific and/or commercial messages.

The Appeals Committee of the NBPNS provides the appeal mechanism for challenging revocation of Board Certification. It is the responsibility of the individual to initiate this process.

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## CONTENT OF THE EXAMINATION

The Certification Examination for Physician Nutrition Specialists is a computerized exam composed of approximately 250 multiple choice, objective questions with a total testing time of four (4) hours.

The content of the examination is described in the Content Outline on the next page.

The questions for the examination are obtained from individuals with expertise in Physician Nutrition and are reviewed for construction, accuracy, and appropriateness by NBPNS and PTC's psychometricians. NBPNS, with the advice and assistance of the Professional Testing Corporation, prepares the examination.

The Certification Examination for Physician Nutrition Specialists will be weighted in approximately the following manner:

I.	General Aspects of Nutrition	35%
II.	Nutritional Status Assessment	10%
III.	Obesity and Related Metabolic Conditions	20%
IV.	Disease-Specific Nutrition	25%
V.	Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition Support	10%

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## CONTENT OUTLINE

- I. **General Aspects of Nutrition (35%)**
  - A. Nutrition Through the Life Cycle
    - 1. Infancy and Childhood
    - 2. Adolescence
    - 3. Pregnancy and Lactation
    - 4. Aging
    - 5. Gender Differences
  - B. Physiology and Pathophysiology
    - 1. Biochemical Composition of the Human Body
    - 2. Energy Metabolism
    - 3. Starvation
    - 4. The Hypermetabolic/Hypercatabolic State
    - 5. Cytokines and Eicosanoids
    - 6. Gastrointestinal Tract
  - C. Ethical Issues
    - 1. Medical and Legal Aspects
    - 2. Nutrition Therapy in End-of-Life
  - D. Nutrients
    - 1. Protein
      - a. Dietary
      - b. Essential Amino Acids
      - c. Nonessential Amino Acids
    - 2. Carbohydrates
      - a. Complex
      - b. Disaccharides
      - c. Glucose
      - d. Other
    - 3. Fiber
      - a. Properties of Dietary Fiber
      - b. Water Soluble
      - c. Water Insoluble
    - 4. Fats and Oils
      - a. Saturated
      - b. Trans Fats
      - c. Polyunsaturated Fats
      - d. Monounsaturated Fats
      - e. Cholesterol
      - f. Others
    - 5. Fat Soluble Vitamins
      - a. Vitamin A
      - b. Vitamin D
      - c. Vitamin E
      - d. Vitamin K



6. Water Soluble Vitamins
  - a. Thiamin
  - b. Folic Acid
  - c. B12
  - d. Vitamin C
  - e. Others
7. Electrolytes, Minerals, and Water
  - a. Sodium
  - b. Potassium
  - c. Calcium
  - d. Magnesium
  - e. Phosphorous
  - f. Iron
  - g. Water
  - h. Others
8. Trace Elements and Ultra-Trace Elements
  - a. Zinc
  - b. Copper
  - c. Selenium
  - d. Others

**II. Nutritional Status Assessment (10%)**

- A. History and Physical
  1. Medical History
  2. Diet History and Counseling
  3. Physical Exam and Anthropometry
- B. Laboratory Data
- C. Body Composition
- D. Nutrient Deficiencies and Excesses
- E. Energy and Protein Requirements
  1. Energy Expenditure
  2. Protein-Energy Malnutrition
  3. Altered Requirements in Disease States

**III. Obesity and Related Metabolic Conditions (20%)**

- A. The Obesity Epidemic
  1. Physical Activity
  2. Food Supply
  3. Psycho-social Environment
  4. Obesogenic Environmental Factors
- B. Regulation of Energy Balance
  1. Appetite Regulation
  2. Adaption to Starvation
  3. Energy Expenditure
  4. Neuro-endocrine Regulation of Energy Balance
- C. Changes in Body Composition in Overnutrition

- D. Eating Disorders
  1. Binge-Eating Disorders
  2. Night Eating Syndrome
  3. Compulsive Overeating
  4. Anorexia Nervosa
  5. Bulimia Nervosa
  6. Other Eating Disorders
- E. Secondary Obesity
  1. Obesity Genetics
  2. Endocrine Factors
  3. Neurological Causes
  4. Pharmacologic Causes
- F. Pediatric Obesity
- G. Co-morbidities of Obesity
- H. Nonsurgical Interventions
  1. Caloric Restriction
  2. Physical Activity, Exercise, Fitness
  3. Cognitive and Behavior Therapy
  4. Popular Weight Control Programs
  5. Multidisciplinary Team Management
  6. Pharmacotherapy of Obesity
  7. Iatrogenic Complications
- I. Bariatric Surgery (Metabolic Monitoring of the Bariatric Surgery Patient)
  1. Selection and Screening
  2. Bariatric Procedures
  3. Preoperative Evaluation and Management
  4. Preoperative Monitoring Management
  5. Long Term Monitoring and Management

**IV. Disease-Specific Nutrition (25%)**

- A. Gastrointestinal Disorders
  1. Intestinal Failure
  2. Pancreatitis, Acute and Chronic
  3. Inflammatory Bowel Disease
  4. Irritable Bowel Syndrome
  5. Disorders of Gastrointestinal Motility and Flora
  6. Celiac
  7. Short Bowel Syndrome
- B. Hepatobiliary Disorders
  1. Cholestasis
  2. Cholelithiasis
  3. Hepatic Failure
- C. Critical Illness
- D. Infection and Sepsis
- E. Blood Lipids and Lipoprotein Disorders

- F. Endocrine Conditions
    - 1. Type 1 Diabetes
    - 2. Type 2 Diabetes
    - 3. Metabolic Syndrome
    - 4. Secondary Hyperparathyroidism
    - 5. Polycystic Ovaries and other Ob/Gyn Disorders
  - G. Renal Pathophysiology and Disorders
  - H. Cardiovascular Disorders
    - 1. Hypertension
    - 2. Atherosclerosis
    - 3. Cardiac Cachexia
  - I. Pulmonary Disorders and Respiratory Function
    - 1. Sleep Apnea
    - 2. Pulmonary Cachexia
  - J. Bone Pathophysiology and Disorders
    - 1. Metabolic Bone Disease and Osteoporosis
    - 2. Osteoarthritis
    - 3. Dental
  - K. Cancer
  - L. Anemia and Other Hematologic Diseases
  - M. Nervous System Disorders
  - N. Surgery and Trauma
  - O. Genetic and Pediatric Disorders
  - P. Transplantation
  - Q. Adverse Effects of Ethanol
  - R. Psychiatric Disorders
- V. Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition Support (10%)**
- A. Relative Merits of Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition
  - B. Indications and Contraindications
  - C. Management of Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition
    - 1. Routes
    - 2. Nutrient Composition and Glycemic Control
    - 3. Initiation and Refeeding Syndrome
    - 4. Transitional Feedings, Weaning, and Discontinuation
    - 5. Monitoring Nutritional Support
  - D. Home Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition
  - E. Complications of Nutrition Support
    - 1. Mechanical
    - 2. Physiological
    - 3. Metabolic
    - 4. Septic
    - 5. Drug-Nutrient Interactions
  - F. Pediatric Nutrition Support

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## SAMPLE EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

In the following questions, choose the one best answer.

1. A product lists the following nutritional information:

Serving size 9 oz  
Serving per package 1  
Calories 240  
Protein 19 g  
Carbohydrate 19 g  
Fat 10 g  
Sodium 680 mg

What is the approximate percentage of calories provided by fat in this product?

1. 30%
  2. 34%
  3. 38%
  4. 42%
- 

2. Although there is much evidence in favor of diets high in monounsaturated fat, the potential drawback to this, as compared with a diet high in complex carbohydrates, is that monounsaturated fat may result in

1. higher energy intake.
  2. higher cholesterol levels.
  3. higher triglyceride levels.
  4. lower HDL-cholesterol levels.
- 

3. In choosing a diet low in trans fatty acids, which of the following foods should be restricted the most?

1. Olive oil
  2. Plain bagels
  3. Nonfat dry milk
  4. Solid vegetable shortening
- 

4. Which of the following components of energy expenditure generally accounts for the largest proportion of the 24-hour total?

1. Thermic effect of food
  2. Resting energy expenditure
  3. Activity-related energy expenditure
  4. The energy expenditure of fidgeting
-

Questions 5-7 are based on the following information.

A 51-year-old white female with a 20-year history of inflammatory bowel disease had undergone repeated surgery for removal of small and large bowel, including all of the small intestine except for 4½ feet below the stomach and the distal half of the large bowel. She is 5'6" tall. Her weight has gradually fallen from 140 lbs. to 85 lbs. since her last operation 3 years ago. The weight loss occurred despite a well-balanced diet and normal total food intake. With complaints of noting droplets of fat and grease in her stool and having low back pain, she was admitted to the hospital for further evaluation. She has taken no nutrient supplements but has recently taken oral antibiotics for urinary tract infections.

5. A 24-hour urine collection is likely to contain an abnormally large amount of

1. oxalate.
2. calcium.
3. creatinine.
4. magnesium.

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6. Which of the following blood tests is most likely to be normal?

1. Thiamin
2. Calcium
3. Vitamin B12
4. Prothrombin time

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7. The most reasonable amount of dietary fat to prescribe initially for her would be

1. 15 g/day.
2. 25 g/day.
3. 100 g/day.
4. 120 g/day.

Answers	
Q	A
1	3
2	1
3	4
4	2
5	1
6	1
7	2

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## REFERENCES

A few general references that may be useful in preparing for the examination are listed below. A more extensive curriculum guide for PNS training and directory of nutrition fellowships are available at <http://www.nbpns.org/>. Inclusion of certain journals and textbooks on these lists does not constitute an endorsement by the NBPNS of their entire content or imply a guarantee that candidates will be successful in passing the certification examination.

Bowman BA, Russell RM. Present knowledge in nutrition. 9th ed. Washington, DC: ILSI Press, 2006. A general reference resource covering most aspects of human nutrition, with chapters mainly emphasizing individual nutrients.

Heimbürger DC, Ard JD (eds.). Handbook of Clinical Nutrition. 4th ed. Philadelphia: Elsevier, 2006. A 600-page spiral-bound pocket-sized handbook covering broad aspects of clinical nutrition. Useful as a basic text and as a bedside reference manual.

Mueller, C. et al. (Eds.) The A.S.P.E.N. Nutrition Support Core Curriculum, 2nd Edition. Silver Spring, MD: A.S.P.E.N.. 2012

Shils ME, Shike M, Ross AC, Caballero B., Cousins RJ, eds. Modern Nutrition in Health and Disease. 10th ed. Baltimore: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2005. A comprehensive reference source for all aspects of human nutrition, especially as related to human health and disease.

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