



National Consortium of Breast Centers
Breast Health Navigator Certification Programs

NAVIGATOR CERTIFICATION EXAM DESCRIPTION

BY

NATIONAL CONSORTIUM OF BREAST CENTERS
CERTIFICATION BOARD



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EXAM DESCRIPTION

NCBC is currently undergoing a review of its standard setting, item analysis and equating plan with the assistance of Alpine. All executive summaries provided by Alpine are available upon request except when proprietary material is a part of that summary.

The changes made to these tests, based on the 7 year review, have been implemented and have been rolled out as of March 2016. and BHCN March 2022.

Questions are reviewed by a minimum of two (2) Medical Advisors before being finalized as an accepted test question. Medical Advisors are medical doctors in the breast health and cancer field.

TEST COMPONENTS

All navigators, regardless of designation, are required to understand the full extent of patient movement through this documented system of care. CN-BA and CN-BM tests have 150 questions and the BHCN has 125

Examinations consist of a three-hour written test, or three hour online exam formatted as multiple choice and true-false questions. It is important to note that while each test has similar national standards and common core knowledge test questions, the questions are written specific to the scope of practice as recognized by the individual designation, as specified in the executive summary of Alpine.

The Breast Navigation Certification examination is based upon the role of a breast navigator. The examination reflects the knowledge and skills a breast navigator and should understand in order to successfully navigate a breast patient through the breast health/cancer continuum of care based on the survey and psychometric analysis done by Alpine



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The assessment measures an individual's competency as a navigator through a series of 150 questions based on navigational skills by job specific scopes of practice. While it is important to note that the tests are not designed to assess licensure knowledge, licensure plays a role in specifying the areas needed to work effectively as a patient navigator.

Navigators have a specific function at any given space in time during patient care, but to be an effective navigator is to have knowledge of the full spectrum of care. The National Consortium of Breast Center's test bases questions then on these criteria:

- Scope of practice
- Facility and State regulations
- Nationally recognized guidelines

It is important to note that while navigators must understand the spectrum of care, proper use of this Navigational model includes the understanding that no one can work outside their specific parameters as defined by licensure, state and national regulations, or facility protocol. Anyone working outside these parameters is subject to inquiry and disciplinary action.

Tests are developed with the criteria by subject matter (peer) experts in breast patient navigation. Each core committee member (SME) represents a distinct designation and leads the designation task force for tests, test reviews, study guidelines, and annual test updates based on national guidelines. Task forces are comprised of primarily peers to the designation, but also selections from other designations to balance the product and support continued continuum of care between the respective navigators.



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GUIDELINES

Guidelines are constantly monitored for changes or upgrades to patient care based on evidenced based practices in patient care. For any major changes or additions to the program, a presentation, review, and vote is requested of the NCBC Certification Board for final approval before use. Some facilities may deviate from national practice standards, but the test will remain fair and impartial based on following these guidelines at all times. Guidelines include:

1. NCCN: National Comprehensive Cancer Network
2. ASCO: American Society of Clinical Oncology
3. ACR: American College of Radiology
4. ACS: American Cancer Society
5. NIH: National Institute of Health
6. MQSA: Mammography Quality Standards Act
7. NCI: National Cancer Institute
8. CoC: Commission on Cancer navigator program requirements

Test validity is supported by continual test review and annual review for changes to nationally accepted practice and protocol.



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CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CERTIFICATION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To become certified through the NCBC Breast Navigator Certification Program the Certification Eligibility Requirements are:

- Be a licensed medical professional and hold a valid medical license as a physician, nurse practitioner, registered nurse, certified physician assistant or social worker OR
- Be a certified medical professional and hold a valid certification as a radiologic technologist, radiology practitioner assistant, social worker, or advanced practice nurse OR
- Be a medical technician, licensed practical/vocational nurse, volunteer or lay navigator; AND
- Navigate breast patients for at least 25% of annual time worked; OR
- Work at least 500 hours per year in breast patient navigation; AND
- Provide proof of valid license or certification, where applicable; AND
- *Pay the certification fee of \$295 registration.

NOTE: an applicant without valid medical credentials at the time of testing will be offered the ADVOCATE test. Proof of licensure will be required as noted above.

*** No refunds will be given once the binder materials have been sent.**

CERTIFICATION ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATION; NOT A REQUIREMENT

- The applicant applying for certification should have a minimum of two years' experience of navigating breast patients, but no less than 6 months experience. The examinations cover knowledge the navigator has gained through licensures or certifications and career experience to efficiently and effectively navigate breast care/cancer patients. Reminder: this test is for currently practicing navigators.
- For applicants with 3-6 months of the required experience, an alternative is to obtain a certificate of attendance for a breast care/cancer navigation course. For further information on where to find navigation training please contact the NCBC Certification Manager.