



Certified Correctional Health Professional Clinical Provider

SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION FOR CORRECTIONAL PHYSICIANS, NURSE PRACTITIONERS AND PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATES



From the Premier National Certification Program for Professionals in Correctional Health Care

Candidate Handbook

CCHP Board of Trustees
1145 W. Diversey Pkwy.
Chicago, IL 60614
www.ncchc.org/cchp



A Program of the National Commission on Correctional Health Care

Professional Recognition

The CCHP—Clinical Provider (CCHP-CP) credential sets apart physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician associates who thrive in the demanding, high-stakes environment of correctional health care. Earning the CCHP-CP demonstrates a deep understanding of the complex clinical needs of incarcerated patients—along with the legal, ethical, and operational realities of delivering care behind the walls.

This credential represents mastery of advanced, specialty-specific knowledge developed by leaders in the field and signals elevated clinical judgment, professional credibility, and a commitment to excellence in every correctional health care setting.

Purpose

Specialty certification as a correctional clinical provider validates a commitment to maintaining the knowledge and judgment required to deliver competent, appropriate care to incarcerated patients. The CCHP-CP defines the specialized body of knowledge essential to practice in correctional settings, providing a rigorous assessment that supports ongoing professional development and advances health care quality in the interest of public health.

Eligibility

All qualified physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician associates are eligible. Prior to submitting an application, applicants must have:

- Current CCHP certification
- A current, active, full, and unrestricted license or registration from a State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, a territory of the United States, or Canada.
- Practice in a provider role in the correctional environment over the course of at least three years (no minimum requirement of hours)
- 18 hours of correctional health-specific continuing education within the past three years

Application and Candidacy

Elements of the application:

- Copy of current professional licensure
- Resume or CV
- Application form and fee

For application deadlines for each exam, see www.ncchc.org/cchp/calendar.

Once the application has been approved, applicants will receive acknowledgment of their candidacy to take the CCHP-CP examination. Candidates must register before the registration deadline for the exam they wish to take. Application fees will not be refunded.

Exam Dates and Locations

Examinations are offered throughout the year, including at NCCHC's conferences and at partner sites and conferences, Prometric test centers across the country, and online. For a list of NCCHC exam dates and locations, visit www.ncchc.org/CCHP/calendar. For Prometric test centers and online exam information, visit www.ncchc.org/professional-certification/testing-options/.

Exam Registration and Admission

Candidates must register for the exam through NCCHC (live locations), Prometric test centers or online, confirming the date and location where they wish to take the exam.

NCCHC Conference and Partner Sites and Conferences: Upon registering, candidates will receive an admission notice with the address of the site. The admission notice and a valid state photo ID or driver's license are required for admission.

Prometric Test Centers/Online Exams: Please follow the instructions provided during exam registration.

ADA Compliance

The CCHP Board of Trustees makes every effort to ensure that test centers are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require special accommodations, please submit a written request at least 90 days before the examination date.

The Examination

The proctored examination is composed of 70 to 100 multiple-choice, objective questions. Candidates are allowed two hours to complete the examination.

NCCHC Conference and Partner Sites and Conferences: Report to the exam site as instructed on the admission notice. Candidates arriving late may be admitted but will not be given additional time to complete the exam.

Prometric Test Centers: Report to the exam site as instructed by the test center and adhere to test center regulations.

No pagers, cell phones, alarms or similar devices may be operative during the exam. Personal digital assistants (PDAs) and other handheld computers are also prohibited. Any person using such devices will be dismissed from the test center and disqualified from the examination. No books, reference materials, or study aids of any sort are allowed in the exam room.

Online Exams: NCCHC offers online exams with live remote proctors through Prometric. Take your exam from the comfort and safety of your home or office at a date and time that is convenient for you.

Internet access, a laptop or PC and a web camera are required. There are additional requirements available at www.ncchc.org/online-exams. Prior to beginning the exam, candidates will need to complete a system test.

Exam Scoring and Reporting

Examination questions, answers, and grading guidelines are developed by the CCHP Board of Trustees and the CCHP-CP Subcommittee. The candidate should choose the single best answer for each item. There is no penalty for incorrect answers; it is to the candidate's advantage to answer each item even when uncertain of the correct response. No credit is given for items for which more than one response is selected.

The tests are graded electronically. Candidates will receive the results by email within two weeks. Only a pass or fail will be reported to the candidate. A list of passing candidates may be published; no reference is made to candidates who defer taking the examination or do not attain a passing score.

Rescheduling and Reexamination

Candidates must make and confirm all cancellations/changes through the website or direct contact with the entity registered with (NCCHC or Prometric). Candidates canceling or rescheduling less than 5 days before the exam date are responsible for the full reregistration fee. Prometric imposes reduced fees 5-29 days before the scheduled exam date and no fee for 30 days or more.

Candidates who do not attain a passing score on their first attempt may retake the exam two additional times within one year of the application approval date.

Content Outline

The exam questions are written by experienced correctional health providers and reviewed by professionals who have attained CCHP and CCHP-CP certification. They are reviewed for construction, accuracy, and appropriateness by the CCHP Board of Trustees and a committee of subject matter experts. The content of the examination is described in the content outline on the following pages. The seven major content areas are weighted (reflected in the percentages) according to the established test plan.

This content outline identifies the seven knowledge areas covered on the examination. Each knowledge area includes, but is not limited to, the study topics listed below.

Resources that may be studied to prepare for the exam include NCCHC position statements (www.ncchc.org/position-statements) and other resources listed on the NCCHC website (www.ncchc.org/other-resources). Candidates also may wish to review general textbooks in internal medicine, pediatrics, mental health, correctional medicine and others that address conditions and situations commonly encountered in a correctional environment. For additional details, see www.ncchc.org/professional-certification/cchp-cp/exam-details/.

I. CLINICAL MANAGEMENT (30%-40%)

Acute and episodic care	Screening
Continuity of care	Special populations
Emergency situations	Telephone medicine: protocols for nursing after hours
Infirmary care	The female patient

II. SECURITY (3%-5%)

Autonomy	Maximum security and segregation
Medical effects of restraints, tasers	Permits, passes and perks
Special needs patients	Patient escort
Security threats of medical devices	Other security

III. MENTAL HEALTH (10%-15%)

Principles of counseling & evaluation	Special populations
Psychotropic medications	Suicide prevention
Restraint and restrictive housing	Trauma
Self-injurious behavior	Verbal de-escalation techniques

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IV. PUBLIC HEALTH (6%-12%)

Coordination with health department	Preventive medicine
Infection control practices	Reportable diseases
Outbreak identification and management	Screening and treatment of diseases with public health impact

V. LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES (8%-12%)

Legal issues of adolescents	Prison rape
Medical research	Risk management
Participation in executions	Standards of care
Patient rights	

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE (8%-12%)

Accreditation	Hospice
Cost containment	Pharmaceutical management
CQI	Supervisory issues & staffing
Developing protocols	Utilization management

VII. SUBSTANCE ABUSE (10%-15%)

Long-term effects of substance abuse	Mental & behavioral health aspects, co-occurring disorders
Management of intoxication and withdrawal	Substance abuse: pregnant patients
Medication-assisted treatment	Substances of abuse inside corrections (restricted meds)



The Certified Correctional Health Professional (CCHP) program is sponsored by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care.



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