Important Notes

• Specific test questions will not be discussed
• Participation in this call does not guarantee you will pass the MSCN exam
Overview

• The Multiple Sclerosis Nurses International Certification Board (MSNICB) endorses the concept of voluntary, periodic certification by examination for all nurses involved in multiple sclerosis care.

• Board certification in multiple sclerosis nursing is highly valued and provides formal recognition of basic multiple sclerosis nursing knowledge.
General Test Information

• Candidates must be a registered nurse (RN)
  – Recommended to have at least 2 years of experience in MS nursing
• Testing is offered at the Consortium of MS Centers (CMSC) annual meeting and over a two-week period in June and November
  – Online application and fee is due roughly one month prior to examination date
• Results will be mailed 4 weeks after testing period ends
Testing format

• Computerized exam
• Testing time is 2.5 hours
• 150 questions
  – Will need to answer 110-120 correctly to pass
• Questions are multiple choice
• Each question has one correct answer and 3 distractors
  – No select all that apply
Preparing for the exam

- Recommend studying 2-3 times per week, starting 2-3 months prior to taking the exam
- Consider a study buddy for accountability
# Exam Content

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<td>Concepts underlying clinical practice</td>
<td>23%</td>
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<td>Assessment &amp; intervention for clinical practice</td>
<td>42%</td>
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<td>Advocacy</td>
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Concepts Underlying Clinical Practice

• Definition of Multiple Sclerosis
• Pathophysiology of MS
• Disease Courses and Classifications
• Diagnosis of MS
• Diagnosis of Relapse
Assessment and Intervention for Clinical Practice

- Pharmacologic Interventions
- Symptoms and Symptom Management
- Psychosocial Issues
- Assessment Tools
- Complementary Options
- Pediatric Issues
Advocacy

• Patient Rights
• Ethical Practice
• Negotiating the Health Care System
• Empowerment
• Community Resources
• Organizations
Education

• Disease Specific
• Health Promotion and Change Theory
• Comorbidities
• Cultural and Gender Considerations
• Adherence
Research

- Terminology and Process
- Protection of Human Subjects
- Evidence Based Practice
- Translational Research
Study References

• Multiple Sclerosis Nursing International Certification Examination Handbook for Candidates
  – Provides detailed outline of topics covered on exam
  – Available at: http://ptcny.com/pdf/MSNICB.pdf

• Nursing Practice in MS: A Core Curriculum by June Halper MSN, APN-C, FAAN, MSCN and Colleen Harris, MN, NP, MSCN
  – Make sure you have the 4th edition, 2017
  – Includes practice questions and case studies
Study References

• MS Coalition Consensus Paper-The Use of Disease Modifying Therapies in Multiple Sclerosis: Principles and Current Evidence
  – Table 1 lists each drug and it’s MOA, side effects and warnings
  – Table 2 lists each drug and it’s effect on relapse rate and disability progression from clinical trials
  – Available at: https://www.nationalmssociety.org/NationalMSSociety/media/MSNationalFiles/Brochures/DMT_Consensus_MS_Coalition.pdf

• McDonald Diagnostic Criteria-2017
  – Available at: https://www.nationalmssociety.org/For-Professionals/Clinical-Care/Diagnosing-MS/Diagnosing-Criteria
Additional Preparation

• Online Practice Test is available for purchase.
  – [www.msnicb.org](http://www.msnicb.org) for further details.
  – Fee is $50
  – Feedback will be provided on areas of weakness (i.e. research, advocacy)
  – Correct answers to questions are not covered

• Linda Morgante MS Nurse Leadership Program
  – Intensive 2 day course immediately preceding CMSC Annual Meeting. Application deadline typically mid-March.
  – [http://lindamorgante.achlcme.org](http://lindamorgante.achlcme.org)
Additional Preparation

• CMSC Annual Meeting
  – Fundamentals of MS Care Track

• IOMSN membership
  – $50/year
  – Online educational opportunities [www.IOMSN.org](http://www.IOMSN.org) and [www.mscare.org](http://www.mscare.org)
  – Regional in-person programs
    • Occur across the nation in the Fall
    • See website for dates and locations
Recertification

• Required every 5 years
• See www.msnibc.com for specific requirements
FAQ

• How much do we need to know about DMT’s?
  – Thorough understanding of DMT’s is expected including, but not limited to:
    • FDA indications for each
    • Mechanism of action
    • How administered
    • Side effect profile
    • Risks and Safety considerations

• How in-depth are the exam questions?
  – The test is designed for the RN with at least two years of MS nursing experience. The questions require careful thought but reflect a baseline knowledge of MS.
FAQ

• What kinds of research or clinical trial information is asked?
  – MS nurse’s roles and responsibilities in MS research
  – Clinical trial phases
  – Informed consent
  – IRB
  – Trial design
  – Evidence based practice

• What symptomatic treatments/medications are good to know?
  – Thorough understanding of symptom management is expected, including medications used to manage symptoms
Disease Modifying Agents

Self-injected agents:
- glatiramer acetate (Copaxone® and Glatopa®)
- interferon beta 1-a, subcutaneous (Rebif®)
- interferon beta 1-a, intramuscular (Avonex®)
- interferon beta 1-b (Betaseron® and Extavia®)
- pegylated interferon beta-1 a (Plegridy®)

Oral agents:
- dimethyl fumarate (Tecfidera®)
- fingolimod (Gilenya®)
- teriflunomide (Aubagio®)

Intravenous agents:
- ocrelizumab (Ocrevus®)
- alemtuzumab (Lemtrada®)
- mitoxantrone (Novantrone®)
- natalizumab (Tysabri®)