

Multiple Sclerosis Certified Nursing (MSCN) Certification Examination



Candidate Handbook 2023

Application Deadline*	Testing Window
May 3, 2023	June 3 – June 17, 2023
October 4, 2023	November 4 – November 18, 2023

***Applications will not be accepted after this deadline**

Administered by:



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www.ptcny.com/contact

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This Handbook contains necessary information about the Multiple Sclerosis Certified Nursing (MSCN) Examination. Please retain it for future reference. Candidates are responsible for reading these instructions carefully. This Handbook is subject to change.

CONTACT INFORMATION

<p style="text-align: center;">Professional Testing Corporation (PTC) www.ptcny.com (212) 356-0660</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for examination • Obtain general application policy and procedure information • Obtain information about testing policies and procedures • Transfer to a new testing period • Request Test Accommodations • Request Hand Score • Question about score reports • Recertification • Miscellaneous inquiries
<p style="text-align: center;">Prometric www.prometric.com/MSNICB (800) 741-0934</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule test appointment • Reschedule test appointment (within the same testing period) • Cancel test appointment • Find directions to test site • Questions regarding testing sites and appointments
<p style="text-align: center;">Multiple Sclerosis Nurses International Certification Board (MSNICB) www.msnicb.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Information • Electronic certificates

ATTENTION CANDIDATES

This handbook contains necessary information about the Multiple Sclerosis Certified Nursing (MSCN) Examination. It is required reading for those applying for 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. Please retain this handbook for future reference. This handbook is subject to change. See 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.

CERTIFICATION

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. Certification is one part of a process called credentialing. It focuses specifically on the individual nurse and reflects knowledge in a specialized area of practice. Board certification in multiple sclerosis nursing is highly valued and provides formal recognition of basic multiple sclerosis nursing knowledge.

PURPOSES OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS CERTIFIED NURSING DESIGNATION

TO PROMOTE DELIVERY OF QUALITY CARE IN MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS NURSING PRACTICE THROUGH THE CERTIFICATION OF QUALIFIED MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS NURSES BY:

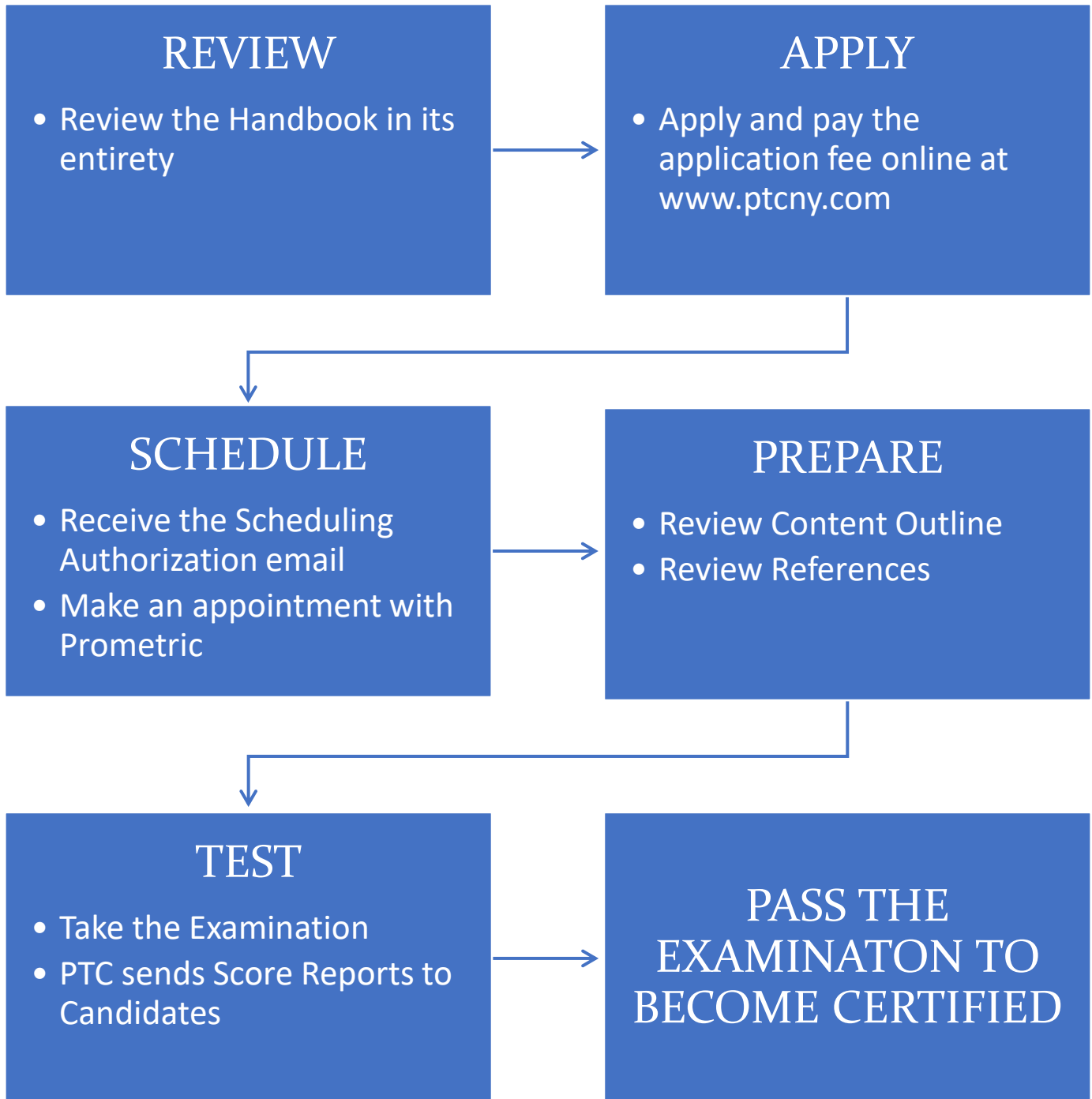
1. Recognizing formally those individuals who meet the eligibility requirements of the Multiple Sclerosis Nurses International Certification Board and pass the Multiple Sclerosis Certified Nursing (MSCN) Examination.
2. Encouraging continued personal and professional growth in the practice of multiple sclerosis nursing.
3. Establishing and measuring the level of knowledge required for certification in multiple sclerosis nursing.
4. Providing a standard of knowledge requisite for certification, thereby assisting the employer, public, and members of the health professions in the assessment of nurses involved in multiple sclerosis care.

DEFINITION OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS NURSING

Multiple sclerosis nursing may cover concepts underlying clinical practice, assessment and interventions in clinical practice, advocacy, education, and research. This may include and is not limited to nurse professionals who practice in the following settings:

- ◆ Hospitals
- ◆ Multiple Sclerosis Centers or Clinics
- ◆ Home or Community Care
- ◆ Rehabilitation Centers
- ◆ Nursing Homes
- ◆ Assisted Living
- ◆ Pharmaceutical or other Commercial Organization
- ◆ Educational and Research Facilities
- ◆ Academic Institutions

THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

It is recommended that candidates have at least two years of experience in multiple sclerosis nursing. Candidates must meet the following requirements:

1. Currently registered as a Registered Nurse, or the equivalent in other countries.
A copy of your current RN license (or equivalent) must be uploaded to your application.
2. Completion and filing of an Application for the Multiple Sclerosis Certified Nursing (MSCN) Examination.
3. Payment of required fee.

COMPLETION OF APPLICATION

Step 1 – Complete Application

Go to <http://www.ptcny.com/test-sponsors/MSNICB> to view examination testing periods, application deadlines, and link to the online application. You must complete the examination application in full, entering your first and last name exactly as it appears on your current government issued photo ID such as a driver's license or a passport. Applications are not considered complete until all information and payment has been provided. The completed application must be submitted online. Retain the link to the application and your login information.

Please note, for new applications you will be asked to create a PIN number. This PIN will be used when going into your existing application.

Step 2 – Submit Examination Fee and Application for Review

Receive email from PTC stating that your payment and application has been received and under review.

Step 3 – Receive Approval of Application

Receive email from PTC stating that your application has been approved.

Step 4 – Receive Scheduling Authorization and Schedule Testing Appointment

Within eleven (11) weeks prior to the start of the testing period, candidates will receive a Scheduling Authorization from PTC via email from notices@ptcny.com. The Scheduling Authorization includes an eligibility number and information on how to set up your examination location, date, and time through Prometric. Retain this document; you will need your eligibility number to access your score report.

You must present your current driver's license, passport, or U.S. Military ID at the testing center or to your Remote Proctor at the time of your examination appointment or you will be refused admission. The first and last name on the ID must exactly match the first and last name on the Scheduling Authorization.

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.

EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION AND SCHEDULING

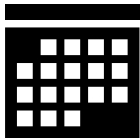
The Multiple Sclerosis Certified Nursing (MSCN) Examination is administered during an established two-week testing window on a daily basis, excluding holidays, at computer-based testing facilities and via live remote proctor managed by Prometric.

Scheduling Authorization

PTC will send approved candidates an email called the Scheduling Authorization. These emails are sent out about 11 weeks before the first day of the testing window. The emails come from notices@ptcny.com. Candidates cannot make an appointment until they receive a scheduling authorization. If you don't receive your email 3 weeks before the start of your testing window contact PTC.

Scheduling Examination Appointments

The Scheduling Authorization will indicate how to schedule your examination appointment with Prometric as well as the dates during which testing is available. Appointment times are first-come, first-served, so schedule your appointment as soon as you receive your Scheduling Authorization in order to maximize your chance of testing at your preferred location and on your preferred date. **Candidates who wait until the last minute run the risk of missing out on their preferred date, time, and 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. Please check this confirmation carefully for the correct date, time, and location. 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 www.prometric.com/MSNICB.

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.

Test Center or Live Remote Proctoring: What's the Difference?

	Test Center Exam	Live Remote Proctored Exam
Additional cost	No	No
ADA Accommodations offered	Yes	Yes – Extra time and private room accommodations only
Breaks allowed	Unscheduled breaks are permitted, however the exam timer will continue counting down.	No breaks are permitted. Candidates must NOT leave camera view until the exam has ended.
Equipment needed	None – Computer provided at test center	Candidate provides their own laptop or desktop computer to take the exam. The computer must have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webcam • Microphone • Secure, reliable internet For complete requirements: www.prometric.com/proproctorcandidate
Testing space needed	None – testing space provided by the test center	Candidates must test alone at a desk or table in a room with a door and no distractions or interruptions. Other people or pets are not permitted in your testing area.
Check-in procedure	Candidates must show their current Government-issued photo ID; walk through a metal detector or be wanded by staff; and roll up sleeves and turn out pockets for a visual inspection.	Prior to check-in, the candidate's equipment needs to pass a compatibility check. During check-in, candidates must show their current Government-issued photo ID; perform a 360° scan of the room using their camera; and roll up sleeves and turn out pockets for a visual inspection.
Monitoring	Proctors monitor candidates through video and physical walkthroughs in the testing room.	Remote proctors monitor candidates through video and audio, as well as ProProctor security software.

This information is provided as a courtesy summary and may not represent full requirements or specifications for in-person testing or live remote proctored testing. For Live Remote Proctored FAQs, visit <https://ptcny.com/remote-proctor-faqs/>

Scheduling a Remotely Proctored Examination Appointment

If you prefer to test via live remote proctoring in your home or another quiet distraction free location you must provide a computer with a camera, microphone, and an internet connection to allow real-time video communication with a remote proctor.

Please see our Live Remote Proctoring FAQs for more info: <https://ptcny.com/remoteproctor-faqs/>

PLEASE BE ADVISED: It is the candidate's responsibility to be sure their equipment and workspace meet all the requirements for Live Remote Proctoring. If a candidate makes an appointment for remote proctoring and is unable to test due to not meeting technical requirements or physical requirements of the workspace, the candidate will forfeit their examination fees and will need to follow the transfer policies in place for their exam. Please see your exam's transfer policies on page 9.

Rescheduling Examination Appointments within a Testing Period

Candidates are able to 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/MSNICB.

Time Frame	Reschedule Permitted?	Stipulations
Requests submitted 30 days or more before the original appointment	Yes	None
Requests submitted 5 to 29 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.
Requests to reschedule due to technical difficulties during a Live Remote Proctor appointment	No	Candidates who have technical difficulties during their Live Remote Proctor appointment will need to transfer to a new window following the policies in this handbook.

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 \$216.00.** After you have transferred once by paying the \$216.00 fee, you will need to pay the full examination fee in order to transfer a second time; so, ***please plan carefully.***

Please note: requests to transfer to a new testing period must be received within 30 days of your originally scheduled testing period.

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

1. Go to <http://secure.ptcny.com/apply>.
2. Click “Start New Application.”
3. Choose MSNICB in the first drop-down menu; then choose the new examination period in the second drop down menu and fill out the rest of the information on the page.
4. Fill out the application making sure you answer Yes to the question asking if you are transferring.
5. When you have finished the application, click “Submit Transfer Request.”
6. 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 \$216.00 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. The candidate is responsible for contacting Prometric and canceling the original examination appointment, if one was made.

Exams may only be transferred to a new testing period once; please plan carefully.

Please 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.



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
Application Fee	US \$345.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-refundable¹ • Non-transferable • Includes testing center fees • Includes non-refundable \$75 administrative fee
Rescheduling Fee (29-5 days prior to scheduled appointment; see page 8)	US \$50.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies to candidates who need to move their appointment within their current testing period • Payable directly to Prometric • Reschedule with Prometric online or over the phone
Transfer Fee (Moving to a new testing window; see page 9)	US \$216.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies to candidates who need to move to a new testing period • Must submit new application & fee to PTC



- **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.**

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

Veterans Administration Employees

Current employees of the Veterans Administration may sit for the MSNICB Examination for a \$50 discount.

If you are currently employed by the VA, you will be asked to upload a copy of your VA ID card at the time of application.

¹ Applicants who are ineligible to take the examination or whose applications are incomplete by the application deadline will have their examination fees returned minus an administrative fee.

TEST ACCOMMODATIONS

MSNICB and PTC support the intent of and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). PTC will take steps reasonably necessary to make certification 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, 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 will be held in strict confidence.

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.

Testing accommodations may be made upon receipt of the Application, examination fee, and a completed and signed Request for Test Accommodations Form, available from www.ptcny.com or by calling PTC at (212) 356-0660.

This Form must be uploaded with the online application. Candidates who do not submit their Test Accommodations Form with their application may not be able to test during their chosen testing period and therefore be subject to rescheduling or transfer fees.

Only those requests made and received on the official Request for Test Accommodations Form will be reviewed. Letters from doctors and other healthcare professionals must be accompanied by the official Form and will not be accepted without the Form. All requests must be made at the time of application. Accommodations cannot be added to an existing exam appointment.

Please note: do not go to www.prometric.com or contact Prometric to request test accommodations as Prometric is not authorized to approve accommodations. All requests for test accommodations must be submitted on the PTC Request Form.

PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATION

- Check your government issued photo ID (driver's license, passport or U.S. Military ID) when you make your examination appointment. Is it expired? Does the first and last name on your ID match the first and last name on your Scheduling Authorization email? Prometric Proctors and Readiness Agents will refuse admission to candidates with expired IDs, 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 Appointment Confirmation email from Prometric to make sure everything is accurate (i.e. your name, exam name, appointment date, time and location).
- Make yourself familiar with the location of your chosen testing site and any requirements they may have for parking and check the weather and traffic conditions before you leave for the testing center. Make sure you give yourself plenty of time to arrive 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>.
- This Handbook provides the Content Outline for the Examination (see page 16). Use these to help you start studying for the examination.
- Review the Rules for the Examination on page 13 before your appointment.

Testing via Live Remote Proctoring

- Be sure to check your system compatibility BEFORE you schedule and again before your appointment.
- The check in process is about 30 minutes long and is not factored into your appointment. Be sure to log into ProProctor to start your exam at least 30 minutes prior to your appointment time
- Candidates are not permitted to take a break or leave camera view during the examination.
- You must alert the proctor when you have finished your exam and are ready to exit the software.
- **No scratch paper is allowed.** Be sure your workspace is clear of any extra items and electronic devices except for your government issued photo ID.
- Read the Live Remote Proctoring FAQs here: <https://ptcnyc.com/remote-proctor-faqs/>

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE TESTING CENTER

PTC has partnered with Prometric Testing Centers to deliver examinations to candidates. Here is what you can expect when you arrive at your Prometric Testing Center.

- Candidate Check-In
 - Candidates will be asked to present their IDs
 - Candidates will be asked to empty and turn out their pockets
 - Candidates will be “wanded” or asked to walk through a metal detector
 - Inspection of eyeglasses, jewelry, and other accessories will be conducted. Jewelry other than wedding and engagement rings is prohibited.
 - Religious headwear may be worn into the testing room; however, it may be subject to inspection by a testing center administrator before entry into the testing room is permitted.
 - Prometric provides lockers for candidates to store their purses, mobile phones, jackets, food, drinks and medical supplies.

- During the Exam
 - No breaks are scheduled during the exam. Candidates testing at a physical testing center who must leave the testing room to take a break will not be given extra time on the exam; candidates testing remotely are NOT permitted to leave camera view
 - Candidates testing at a physical testing center are only permitted to leave the testing room to use the restroom or to access food, drink, or medicine/personal healthcare items from their assigned locker.
 - Candidates at a physical testing center who take an unscheduled break are subject to additional security screenings before being permitted to reenter the testing room
 - Accessing mobile phones, study materials, or anything other than food, drink, or medicine/personal healthcare items during the examination is prohibited
 - Smoking is prohibited at the testing center
 - All examinations are monitored and may be recorded in both audio and video format

Please keep in mind: other exams will be administered at the same time as your examination. Therefore, examinees may hear ambient noises such as typing, coughing, or people entering and exiting the testing room that cannot be avoided. Proctors periodically walk through the testing room for security monitoring. Prometric is unable to provide a completely noise-free environment. However, headphones may be requested to minimize impact.

Please see [Prometric’s website](#) for more information about what to expect on testing day.

RULES FOR THE EXAMINATION

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

- ⇒ You must present your current driver's license, passport, or US Military ID at the testing center. Candidates without valid ID will NOT be permitted to test. Temporary or paper copies of your ID will not be accepted.
- ⇒ Cell phones, watches, and all other electronic devices are strictly prohibited at the testing center. Please leave these items in your car or in your assigned locker at the testing center. You may NOT access your cell phone, electronic devices, or study materials from your locker at any time.
- ⇒ No papers, books, or reference materials may be accessed during a break at a locker, taken into or removed from the testing room.
- ⇒ You may ONLY access snacks, drinks, medicines, or personal healthcare items from your locker.
- ⇒ No questions concerning content of the examination may be asked during the examination session. The candidate should read carefully the directions that are provided on screen at the beginning of the examination session.
- ⇒ If testing at a physical testing center candidates are prohibited from leaving the testing room while their examination is in session, with the exception of going to the restroom or accessing their locker for food, drink, or medicine/personal healthcare items only.
 - Those testing via live remote proctoring may not leave camera view at any time during the examination.
- ⇒ Bulky clothing, such as sweatshirts (hoodies), jackets, coats, and hats (except hats worn for religious reasons), and most types of jewelry may not be worn while taking the examination. Proctors will ask you to remove such items and place them in your locker. Please see [Prometric's statement on Test Center Security](#) for more information.
- ⇒ All watches and "Fitbit" type devices cannot be worn during the examination.
- ⇒ Food/beverages are not permitted inside the testing room. Leave these items in your assigned locker.



Contact PTC at (212) 356-0660 or 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. MSNICB will initiate an investigation and request suitable analyses and appropriate documentation.

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 within 15 business days of the test appointment. Any comments about the test itself should also be reported to PTC at www.ptcny.com/contact within 15 business days of the test appointment.

REPORT OF RESULTS

Candidates will be notified via email by PTC within four weeks of 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 MSNICB.

SCORING PROCEDURE

Prior to administration of the examination, representatives from the MSNICB Certification Committee and the Professional Testing Corporation meet to review all test items for accuracy. At this meeting, the passing score for the examination is set using recognized psychometric methods. The passing score represents the number of test items determined necessary for the candidate to answer correctly to be considered as having minimal basic knowledge of multiple sclerosis.

In order to protect the security and integrity of the certification examination, neither MSNICB nor the Professional Testing Corporation will release examination items, candidate responses, or keys to any candidate or agency.

REQUESTING A HANDSCORE

Candidates who fail the examination may request a hand scoring of their data file. Hand scoring 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 hand scoring must be received by PTC no later than 90 days after the date of the examination by completing and returning the Request of Handscore form on www.ptcny.com with payment of \$25. 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 handscores 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 handscoring.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF EXAMINATION SCORES

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

REEXAMINATION

The Multiple Sclerosis Certified Nursing (MSCN) Examination 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.

ATTAINMENT OF REGISTRATION & RECERTIFICATION

Eligible candidates who pass the Multiple Sclerosis Certified Nursing (MSCN) Examination are eligible to use the registered designation MSCN after their names and will receive electronic certificates from the MSNICB. A registry of Multiple Sclerosis Certified Nurses will be maintained by the MSNICB and may be reported in its publications.

Certification in multiple sclerosis nursing is recognized for a period of five years at which time the candidate must retake and pass the current Multiple Sclerosis Certified Nursing (MSCN) Examination or meet such alternative requirements as are in effect at that time in order to retain certification. Additional information can be found at <http://www.ptcny.com/test-sponsors/MSNICB>.

EMERITUS STATUS

MS nursing professionals who currently hold the MSCN credential but who retire from active practice may apply for Emeritus Status, which will be conferred on a one-time basis and will not require renewal, as it will be valid indefinitely. Those who are granted Emeritus Status will be able to use the designation MSCN-e but will no longer be able to use the original MSCN designation.

REVOCAION OF CERTIFICATION

Certification will be revoked for any of the following reasons:

1. Falsification of Application.
2. Revocation of current healthcare credential or license.
3. Misrepresentation of certification status.

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

CONTENT OF THE EXAMINATION

The Multiple Sclerosis Certified Nursing (MSCN) Examination is a computer-based examination composed of a maximum of 150 multiple-choice, objective questions with a total testing time of two and half (2 1/2) hours. The content for the examination is described in the Content Outline on the next page.

The questions for the examination are obtained from individuals with expertise in Multiple Sclerosis Nursing and are reviewed for construction, accuracy, and appropriateness by the MSNICB.

MSNICB, with the advice and assistance of the Professional Testing Corporation, prepares the examination.

The Multiple Sclerosis Certified Nursing (MSCN) Examination will be weighted in approximately the following manner:

I.	Concepts Underlying Clinical Practice	23%
II.	Assessment and Intervention for Clinical Practice	42%
III.	Advocacy	10%
IV.	Education	17%
V.	Research	8%

CONTENT OUTLINE

I. CONCEPTS UNDERLYING CLINICAL PRACTICE

- A. Definition of Multiple Sclerosis
 - 1. Disease Course and Phenotypes
 - 2. Epidemiology and Etiology
 - 3. Disease Trajectory
- B. Pathophysiology of Multiple Sclerosis
 - 1. Disruption of Blood/ Brain Barrier
 - 2. Immune Dysfunction/Inflammatory Process
 - 3. Destruction of Myelin
 - 4. Role of Oligodendrocytes
 - 5. Axonal Damage
 - 6. Nerve Conduction/Neurophysiology
 - 7. Neuropathology
 - 8. Neuroanatomy
- C. Diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis/McDonald Diagnostic Criteria
 - 1. Presenting Symptoms/Clinical Findings
 - 2. Prognostic Indicators
 - 3. Diagnostic Tests
 - a. MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging)
 - b. Evoked Potential Testing
 - c. Lumbar Puncture
 - d. Laboratory Studies
 - e. Other

II. ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE

- A. Pharmacologic Therapies
 - 1. Relapse Management
 - a. Corticosteroids/Other
 - b. Supportive Care
 - 2. Disease Modifying Therapies
 - a. Classes of Medications
 - 1. Dosage/Administration
 - 2. Side Effects
 - 3. Efficacy
 - 4. Nursing Implications
 - b. Emerging Agents
 - c. Other
 - 3. Risk Benefit Profiles
 - 4. Safety/Monitoring Activities
 - 5. Patient Education
- B. Symptoms and Symptom Management
 - 1. Fatigue

- 2. Pain
 - 3. Spasticity
 - 4. Tremor
 - 5. Weakness
 - 6. Altered Mobility and Balance Problems
 - 7. Visual Impairment
 - 8. Cognition Changes
 - 9. Elimination Dysfunction
 - 10. Altered Speech and Swallowing
 - 11. Sexual Dysfunction
 - 12. Altered Sensation
 - 13. Other
- C. Psychosocial Issues
 - 1. Response to Chronic Illness
 - 2. Emotional Status
 - 3. Support Network
 - 4. Ethnocultural Issues
 - 5. Family and Relationships
 - 6. Vocational
 - 7. Financial
 - 8. Recreational
 - 9. Potential for Abuse and Neglect
 - 10. Depression
 - 11. End of Life Planning
 - 12. Aging with MS
 - 13. Reproductive Issues
 - D. Assessment Tools
 - E. Therapeutic Options
 - F. Pediatric Concerns
 - G. Wellness Approaches

III. ADVOCACY

- A. Patient Rights
- B. Ethical Practice
- C. Navigating Healthcare Systems
- D. Empowerment
- E. Community Resources
- F. Organizations
 - 1. World Health Organization
 - 2. MS Coalition and its Organizations
 - 3. International Organization of Multiple Sclerosis Nurses
 - 4. CMSC
 - 5. AANN
 - 6. AAN

7. ECTRIMS/ACTRIMS
8. ARN

IV. EDUCATION

- A. Patient Education
 1. Disease Specific
 2. Principles of Teaching and Learning
 3. Health Promotion and Change Theory
 4. Special Populations
 - a. Developmental Issues
 - b. Comorbidities
 - c. Other
 5. Cultural Sensitivity/Diversity Issues
 6. Gender Differences

- a. Reproductive Issues
- b. Hormonal Changes
- c. Aging
7. Resources and Referrals
8. Adherence
9. Shared Decision-Making
- B. Professional Development

V. RESEARCH

- A. Research Terminology and Process
- B. Protection of Human Subjects
- C. Evidence Based Practice
- D. Translational Research
- E. Data Collection

SAMPLE EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

In the following questions, choose the one best answer.

1. A patient with multiple sclerosis requires an electric scooter for mobility. Her daughter caregiver is moving away. The patient begins to cry and say she does not know what she will do when her daughter moves. Which of the following is the most appropriate action?

1. Contact the medical social worker for alternative plans
2. Ask the daughter how she will continue helping her mother
3. Have the patient describe what she has considered in planning for this move
4. Explore care concerns of both mother and daughter

2. When teaching patients about relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis, a nurse should describe

1. a remission as a time of no neurologic activity.
2. the condition as indicative of a “mild disease”.
3. the condition as steadily progressive.
4. a relapse as new onset of neurologic symptoms lasting greater than 24 to 48 hours.

3. Which of the following best describes cognitive dysfunction?

1. Is typically accompanied by aphasia
2. Is strongly linked to level of disability
3. May be present early in disease course
4. Can be successfully treated with antidepressants

4. Before a person can be enrolled in a clinical trial, it is required that s/he

1. seek a second opinion.
2. undergo counseling.
3. receive financial incentive.
4. sign a written informed consent.

5. Multiple sclerosis is best described as which of the following?

1. Demyelination in the central nervous system
2. Lesions in the peripheral nervous system
3. Alteration in neuromuscular function
4. Reduction in brain volume

CORRECT ANSWERS TO SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. 4; 2. 4; 3. 3; 4. 4; 5. 1

REFERENCES

The International Organization of Multiple Sclerosis Nurses has prepared a suggested reference list to assist in preparing for the Multiple Sclerosis Certified Nursing (MSCN) Examination. These references contain journals and textbooks which include information of significance to multiple sclerosis nursing practice. Inclusion of certain journals and textbooks on this list does not constitute an endorsement by the IOMSN of specific professional literature which, if used, would guarantee candidates successful passing of the certification examination.

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