



Certified EKG Technician (CET) Practice Analysis Study EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The practice analysis described in this report was completed in 2017 for the National Healthcareer Association's (NHA) Certified EKG Technician (CET) examination. The purpose of the practice analysis was to collect qualitative and quantitative data regarding EKG technician practice in sufficient detail for the development of a professional, job-related certification examination.

Ascend Learning, the parent company of NHA, facilitated the selection of a Practice Analysis Task Force (PATF) of 10 subject-matter experts (SMEs) to conduct the activities necessary to identify the responsibilities of Certified EKG Technicians (CETs), and to develop the detailed test plan and test specifications. The PATF was representative of key professional and demographic characteristics of EKG technicians in practice.

The study involved the development of a job analysis survey, distribution of the survey to current EKG technicians, and an analysis of the responses. The detailed test plan for the Certified EKG Technician was developed on the basis of these data. The PATF, independent SMEs and EKG Technicians identified the following three domains:

Domain 1: Safety, Compliance, and Coordinated Patient Care

Domain 2: EKG Acquisition

Domain 3: EKG Analysis and Interpretation

A Large-scale online survey was administered to verify the delineation and to gather data to be used in creating a revised content outline and test specifications for the CET examination. Ten thousand CETs from across the United States were sampled from NHA's database. Five hundred and two respondents completed the survey. The respondents rated all tasks as moderately-to-highly important to effective EKG technician practice.

After the survey data were analyzed, the results were reviewed with the PATF and decision rules were established. These rules were used to determine which tasks were appropriate for assessment and therefore inclusion in the final detailed test plan. The PATF judged that the validation evidence was sufficient to recommend that all tasks and knowledge areas be included in the updated test content outline for the CET examination. Each multiple-choice test will be comprised of 100 scored items and 10 un-scored pretest items. The resulting detailed test plan for NHA's CET will be used by Ascend Learning to assemble examinations.