

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Vascular Access Certification Corporation (VACC), an organization with the mission “to certify those professionals in healthcare and related disciplines working in the field of vascular access”¹, commissioned a job analysis from Prometric for the Vascular Access Certification examination.

A job analysis is designed to obtain descriptive information about the tasks performed in a job and the knowledge needed to adequately perform those tasks. The purpose of this job analysis was to:

- develop and validate the listing of the tasks and knowledge related to work performed by vascular access professionals;
- develop test specifications for the VACC Job Analysis of the Vascular Access Certification examination;
- obtain useful information that can guide educational and professional development initiatives; and,
- ensure that VACC has up-to-date information about expected changes in vascular access professionals’ job roles over the next few years.

Conduct of the Job Analysis

The job analysis consisted of several activities: collaboration with subject-matter experts to ensure representativeness of the tasks and knowledge; survey development; survey dissemination; compilation of survey results; and test specifications development. The successful outcome of the job analysis depended on the excellent information provided by vascular access professionals throughout the study.

Survey Development

Survey research is an efficient and effective way to identify the tasks and knowledge that are important in the field of vascular access. The tasks and knowledge included on the survey covered seven domains of practice. The development of the survey was based on a draft of tasks and knowledge developed from a variety of resources (e.g., the previous job analysis conducted in 2010) and active participation of vascular access professionals who served on the Task Force Committee and as Survey Pilot Test respondents.

Survey Content

The survey, disseminated in April 2015, consisted of five sections.

Survey Sections
Section 1: Background and General Information
Section 2: Tasks
Section 3: Knowledge
Section 4: Recommendations for Test Content
Section 5: Comments

Results

¹ <https://www.yacert.org/website/article.asp?id=280497&navitemid=1196&linkid=282383>
Retrieved on June 16, 2015.

Survey Response Rate

The VACC Job Analysis Survey was disseminated by VACC using an open participation link emailed to vascular access professionals. Of the 3,109 vascular access professionals who were invited to participate in the survey, a total of 477 (15.34 %) professionals submitted completed surveys. Responses with at least 55% of the survey completed were included for analysis. A representative group of vascular access professionals completed the survey in sufficient numbers to meet the requirements for conducting statistical analysis. This is evidenced by review of the responses for each of the background and general information questions as well as confirmation by the Test Specifications Committee.

Survey Ratings

Participants were asked to rate the tasks and knowledge by the importance for a vascular access professional using a five point scale (0 = Of no importance to 4 = Very Important).

Content Coverage

Evidence was provided for the comprehensiveness of the content coverage within the domains. That is, if the tasks and knowledge within a domain are adequately defined, then it should be judged as being well covered. Respondents indicated that the content within each task and knowledge domain was adequately to well covered, thus supporting the comprehensiveness of the defined domains.

Write-in Comments

Survey respondents answered two open-ended questions about professional development and/or continuing education needs and expected changes in their work role.

Test Specifications Development

In June 2015, a Test Specifications Committees convened to review the results of the job analysis and to create the test content outline that will guide the development of the Vascular Access Certification examination.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

WHO COMPLETED THE SURVEY

A total of 477 responses were used for analysis. The majority of respondents hold the VA-BC designation and are working in a hospital or medical center.

TASKS IMPORTANCE RATINGS

All 66 task statements achieved high importance ratings. Respondents indicated that the survey covered the important tasks adequately to well.

KNOWLEDGE IMPORTANCE RATINGS

All 72 knowledge statements achieved high importance ratings. Respondents indicated that the survey covered the important knowledge

Summary

In summary, this study used a multi-method approach in identifying the tasks and knowledge that are important to the competent performance of vascular access professionals. The job analysis process allowed for input from a representative group of professionals who are involved in vascular access and was conducted within the guidelines of professionally sound practice. The results of the job analysis can be used by VACC to develop the Vascular Access Certification examination and guide professional development initiatives.