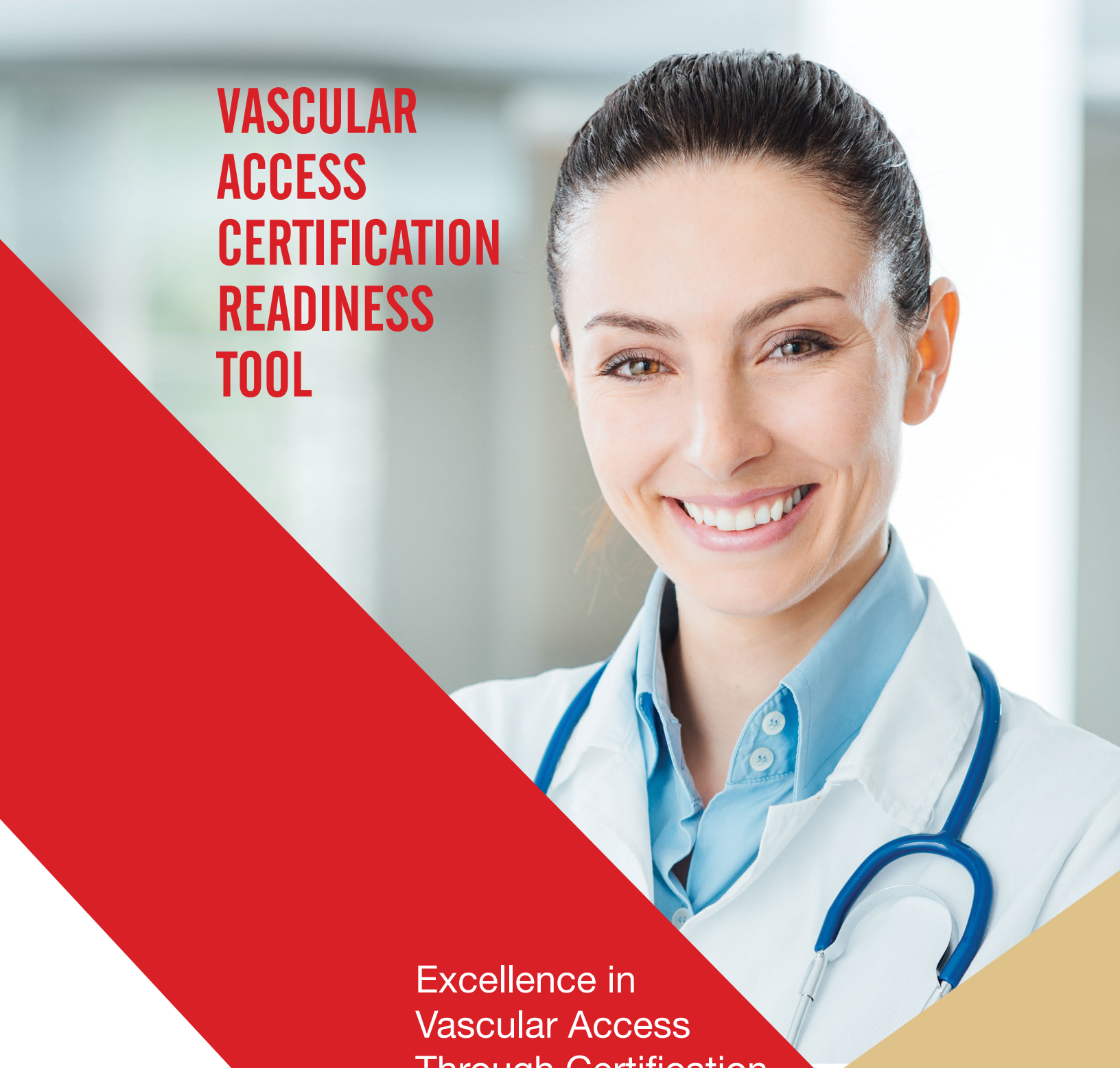
VASCULAR ACCESS CERTIFICATION READINESS TOOL



Excellence in
Vascular Access
Through Certification

VACC
Vascular Access Certification Corporation

Vascular Access Board Certified™ (VA-BC™) Exam

The Certification Readiness Tool, comprised of the VA-BC™ Detailed Content Outline, describes the tasks needed to perform in the vascular access specialty and the knowledge needed to adequately accomplish those tasks as as identified by the Vascular Access Certification Corporations **2015 job analysis study**. This tool is intended to help you assess your readiness for the exam and is recommended for use with other materials in preparation for the exam.

Results of this self-assessment are for your professional use only and in no way impact your current certification status or guarantee the results of your performance on the exam.

You can use the results of this assessment to:

- Document strengths in a specific practice area
- Identify gaps in knowledge for a specific practice area
- Identify professional growth opportunities
- Assess learning needs prior to transitioning from one area of practice to another
- Form the framework for a professional development plan

Certification Readiness Tool

I. Vascular Access Devices	No Experience	Participate or Assist	Under Supervision	Proficient
A. Short peripheral catheters	☐	☐	☐	☐
1. Indications / Contraindications	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Site and vessel selection, evaluation	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Insertion procedures and supplies	☐	☐	☐	☐
B. Midline catheters				
1. Indications / Contraindications	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Site and vessel selection, evaluation	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Insertion procedures and supplies	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Optimal tip location	☐	☐	☐	☐
C. Non-tunneled catheters				
1. Indications / Contraindications	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Site and vessel selection, evaluation	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Insertion procedures and supplies	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Optimal tip location	☐	☐	☐	☐
D. Peripherally inserted central catheters (PICC)				
1. Indications / Contraindications	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Site and vessel selection, evaluation	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Insertion procedures and supplies	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Optimal tip location	☐	☐	☐	☐
E. Tunneled catheters				
1. Indications / Contraindications	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Site and vessel selection, evaluation	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Insertion procedures and supplies	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Optimal tip location	☐	☐	☐	☐

Certification Readiness Tool

F. Implanted vascular access devices (ports)				
1. Indications / Contraindications	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Site and vessel selection, evaluation	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Insertion procedures and supplies	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Optimal tip location	☐	☐	☐	☐
G. Intraosseous devices				
1. Indications / Contraindications	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Site selection, evaluation	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Insertion procedures and supplies	☐	☐	☐	☐
H. Dialysis / apheresis catheters				
1. Indications / Contraindications	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Site and vessel selection, evaluation	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Insertion procedures and supplies	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Optimal tip location	☐	☐	☐	☐
I. Arterial catheters				
1. Indications / Contraindications	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Site and vessel selection, evaluation	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Insertion procedures and supplies	☐	☐	☐	☐
J. Pulmonary artery catheters				
1. Indications / Contraindications	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Site and vessel selection, evaluation	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Insertion procedures and supplies	☐	☐	☐	☐
K. Aquapheresis catheters				
1. Indications / Contraindications	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Site and vessel selection, evaluation	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Insertion procedures and supplies	☐	☐	☐	☐

Certification Readiness Tool

II. Vascular Access Device Maintenance	No Experience	Participate or Assist	Under Supervision	Proficient
A. Flushing and locking solutions, procedures	☐	☐	☐	☐
B. Patency assessment (e.g., verifying blood return, flushing)	☐	☐	☐	☐
C. Site assessment	☐	☐	☐	☐
D. Dressing change, frequency, product selection	☐	☐	☐	☐
E. Supplies required (e.g., needleless connectors, filters, IV tubing, securement devices)	☐	☐	☐	☐
F. Catheter removal techniques	☐	☐	☐	☐

III. Complications and Interventions	No Experience	Participate or Assist	Under Supervision	Proficient
A. Insertion related (e.g., arterial puncture, pneumothorax, hemothorax, hematoma)	☐	☐	☐	☐
B. Post insertion related (e.g., extravasation, infiltritation, thrombosis, malposition, infection)	☐	☐	☐	☐
C. Additional medical interventions (e.g., catheter clearance, antibiotic locks)	☐	☐	☐	☐

Certification Readiness Tool

IV. Critical Thinking and Clinical Application	No Experience	Participate or Assist	Under Supervision	Proficient
A. Integration of infection prevention concepts into clinical practice	☐	☐	☐	☐
B. Anatomy and physiology	☐	☐	☐	☐
C. Growth and development	☐	☐	☐	☐
D. Age related vascular changes	☐	☐	☐	☐
E. Vascular pathology (e.g., disease process and impact on vascular access)	☐	☐	☐	☐
F. Laboratory values relevant to device placement and maintenance	☐	☐	☐	☐
G. Medical imaging technology (e.g., ultra sound, infra-red, transillumination)	☐	☐	☐	☐
H. Tip location systems	☐	☐	☐	☐
I. General knowledge of drug properties and therapies	☐	☐	☐	☐

V. Communication / Patient Advocacy	No Experience	Participate or Assist	Under Supervision	Proficient
A. Patient, caregiver resources (e.g., healthcare coverage, patient assistance programs, education materials, community programs)	☐	☐	☐	☐
B. Psychosocial issues related to cultural diversity (e.g., translator for informed consent, family involvement in medical decisions)	☐	☐	☐	☐
C. Interdisciplinary collaboration	☐	☐	☐	☐
D. Mentoring techniques	☐	☐	☐	☐

Certification Readiness Tool

VI. Research / Quality Management	No Experience	Participate or Assist	Under Supervision	Proficient
A. Research methodologies (e.g., quantitative, qualitative, IRB)	☐	☐	☐	☐
B. Evidence based practice implementation, compliance	☐	☐	☐	☐
C. Critical analysis of published research	☐	☐	☐	☐
D. Process improvement initiatives	☐	☐	☐	☐

VII. Ethical and Legal Considerations of Vascular Access	No Experience	Participate or Assist	Under Supervision	Proficient
A. Patient rights	☐	☐	☐	☐
B. Informed consent (e.g., risks, benefits and alternatives)	☐	☐	☐	☐
C. Professional code of ethics	☐	☐	☐	☐
D. Documentation (including time-out)	☐	☐	☐	☐
E. Incident reporting process to institution, manufacturer, regulatory agencies	☐	☐	☐	☐
F. Legal implications associated with product use (e.g., IFUs, expiration dates, off-label use)	☐	☐	☐	☐
G. Legal liability associated with vascular access practice (including challenging patients, situations)	☐	☐	☐	☐