

**Center for Nursing Education and Testing**  
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*Guide for the Interpretation of Performance Results*

The score on the Dialysis Nursing Certification Examination (CDN) is reported as a standard score which summarizes your performance on the entire test. The number of items that you answered correctly, which is your "raw score," has been converted, or transformed, to a scaled score, which is referred to as a "standard score" in your report. The conversion is similar to converting a temperature from a Fahrenheit to a Centigrade scale. The scale used for the CDN Certification Exam has a mean (average) score of 100, and a standard score of 95 is required to pass the exam. ***To reach the passing standard score of 95, you must answer about 72% of the questions in the total test correctly.***

Raw scores are converted to scaled scores so that scores can be directly compared from year to year and from test to test. Using scaled scores, corrections are made for the difficulty of a particular test, to ensure that (1) no examinee is unfairly penalized (or rewarded) for taking a harder (or easier) form of the test, and (2) the passing standard (standard score of 95) represents the same level of performance--no matter which form of the test is taken. For example, if one test form were more difficult than another test form, scores on that test would be adjusted upward to account for the difference. If a test form were easier than another test form, scores would be adjusted downward to account for this difference.

Persons who are not successful on the test receive a breakdown of their performance by the **Content Areas** of the test to indicate areas of strength and/or weakness. Please note that the percentage of questions in each area varies in accordance with the test blueprint: 28% of the items are in Concepts of Kidney Disease, 54% are in Hemodialysis, 14% are in Peritoneal Dialysis, and 4% are in the Transplant & Acute Therapies area. Since each area has a different number of questions, the percent correct on the total test does **not** equal the average of the percents in each area.