CCP-C® Exam Guide

IBSC Certified Critical Care Paramedic exam: format, blueprint (April 2026 handbook), eligibility, an 8-week plan and IBSC's references

THE EXAM AT A GLANCE

From IBSC's handbook (April 2026), Retesting Policy, fees and FAQ pages.

FEATURE	CCP-C EXAM
Items	135: 110 scored, 25 unscored pilot
Time	150 min: two 75-min sections (68 + 67 items)
Break	One optional 5-min break, after section 1
Item type	Multiple choice, 3 options (A to C)
Format	Fixed length, not adaptive; random order
Passing standard	Pass/fail (modified-Angoff); FAQ: 68 of 110
Results	Within 1 hour; only a fail report shows area scores
Cost	$385; $285 with an affiliate membership
Reschedule	Free over 30 days out, then $100 to $150; no same-day cancels
Where	Prometric center, live remote proctor or IBSC onsite (MED)
Retake	After 30 days, full fee; 90-day wait after a 3rd fail
Valid for	4 years

EXAM TIP You cannot return to section 1 once you finish it. Review flagged items before moving on.

WHAT IS ON IT

Blueprint from the Candidate Handbook (updated April 2026), in scored items. The five medical areas total 50.

Total 110; pilot items unscored. App subject: where Medic Basics files each area.

CONTENT AREA	ITEMS	APP SUBJECT
Transport and Safety	7	Transport and Safety
Airway, Anesthesia and Analgesics	14	Airway, Anesthesia and Analgesics
General Medical	11	Medical
Cardiac	13	Medical
Neurologic	10	Medical
Respiratory	11	Medical
Toxic and Environmental	5	Medical
Trauma/Burn	12	Trauma and Burn
Maternal/Fetal (incl. neonatal)	8	Special Populations
Pediatric	9	Special Populations
Special Populations (bariatric, geriatric)	5	Special Populations
Professional Considerations	5	Transport and Safety

EXAM TIP The outline names Impella, ECMO, VAD, IABP, invasive pacing, GAMUT metrics and Just Culture. Expect them even if your service never uses them.

WHO CAN TAKE IT

- Current, unrestricted paramedic license or certification, uploaded when you apply
- No experience minimum; IBSC suggests about 3 years, a critical care course, 6 to 12 months of study and a review course
- Expected: significant knowledge of current ACLS, PALS, Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) and ITLS/PHTLS
- Built for ground critical care transport; FP-C adds flight physiology and safety. No reciprocity
- Apply at least 2 weeks ahead; the eligibility email can take up to 5 business days
- Approval opens a one-year testing window

HOW TO STUDY

Weighted to the blueprint; shift it to your test date.

1. Week 1: read the handbook outline and abbreviation list, then take a Mock Exam as a baseline
2. Week 2: Airway, Anesthesia and Analgesics, with One-Pagers: Ventilator Modes and Settings, Capnography, ABG Interpretation
3. Weeks 3 to 5: Medical (about 45%), with Hemodynamic Normals, Vasopressors and Inotropes, Rhythm Gallery, IABP Management, Impella Heart Pump, ECMO Essentials
4. Week 6: Special Populations (22 items, including neonatal)
5. Week 7: Trauma and Burn, then Transport and Safety; one timed Mock Exam
6. Week 8: a second timed Mock Exam, reviewing every miss; last days, Daily Review and One-Pagers only

Daily: clear Daily Review before new questions. Weekly: drill your Weakest Subject and reread One-Pagers linked from missed rationales.

TEST-DAY TIPS

- Center: photo ID with signature and your current name exactly as on your IBSC account, plus a copy of your paramedic license
- Remote: run Prometric's system check before you schedule, then sign in to ProProctor at least 30 minutes early
- Pace about 1 minute per item (68 items in 75 minutes)
- On-screen calculator, flag and strike-through; a wipe-off board at a Prometric center (other modes: follow your confirmation)
- No phones or smartwatches

EXAM TIP No guessing penalty, and pilot items are mixed in at random: answer every item.

SAFETY Arriving after your start time can cost your seat and your fees. Arrive 30 minutes early.

OFFICIAL RESOURCES

- Candidate Handbook (April 2026): outline, sample items, approved abbreviations, rules
- Exam Preparation page: book list, paid TesTrac practice tests; its outline PDF is the old 2016 one
- CAMTS 12th edition (2022), free abridged download; IBSC's FAQ cites the 11th. The 13th (Oct 2026) takes effect Jan 1, 2027
- Recertify every 4 years: retest, or 100 contact hours (75 clinical, 16 from an approved review course). No grace period

IBSC's CCP-C list, checked October 2026. IBSC prints the old "Air and Surface" title; the 6th edition is ISBN 978-0443105708.

IBSC-RECOMMENDED REFERENCE	EDITION
Critical Care Transport (AAOS)	3rd (2022)
Patient Transport: Principles and Practice (ASTNA)	6th (2024)
Patient Transport: Medical Critical Care	1st (2025)
The Walls Manual of Emergency Airway Management	6th (2022)
PHTLS (NAEMT)	10th (2023)
AMLS (NAEMT)	4th (2024)
Standards for Critical Care and Specialty Transport (ASTNA)	3rd (2023); IBSC lists 2019
AAP Neonatal and Pediatric Transport Field Guide	2019
HEMS Aircrew Survival Manual (Sharpe)	2020
Human Factors in Air Transport (Seedhouse et al)	2020

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