EKG TECH BASICS · ONE-PAGER

CCI CCT Exam Guide

Format, item types, scoring, eligibility pathways, the six-category exam matrix, and a 6-week study plan for the Certified Cardiographic Technician exam

6 sources + more detail
ekgtechbasics.com/sheets/guide-cci-cct.html
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1 The exam at a glance

CCI describes the CCT as the exam for people who work in ECG, Holter monitoring and stress testing.

FEATURE	DETAIL
Questions	130: 110 scored, 20 unscored pretest items placed at random and not marked
Time	2-hour appointment: 1 h 50 min for questions, 10 min for the tutorial and a survey
Item types	Multiple choice (1 of 4); multiple response (pick 2 or 3 of 4 to 6); hot spot (click one area of an image); drag and place (labels onto an image)
Scoring	Scaled score from 0 to 900; 650 passes. The scaled score is not the number or percent correct
Fee	$175, which includes a $100 non-refundable filing fee
Where	Pearson VUE test centers, year-round
Results	Unofficial report at the center: score, pass or fail, and percent correct in each content area
Retakes	New application and full fee; wait 45 days after the last attempt
Renewal	First renewal within about a year ($165, no CEUs); then every 3 years with 16 CEUs

CCI's 2025 first-time pass rate for the CCT was 61%.

2 Who can apply

You need a high school diploma or GED when you apply, one pathway below, and typed documents that prove it.

PATHWAY	WHO IT FITS	PROOF
CCT1	Student in, or graduate of, a cardiovascular or allied health training program	Completion certificate, student verification letter, or transcripts
CCT2	Working now, or in the past, in cardiovascular technology or an AMA-recognized allied health field	Employment letter giving dates, main duties and clinical competence
CCT3	Finished an undergraduate or graduate degree in a science or physical health field	Completion certificate, student verification letter, or transcripts

After approval, CCI emails an Authorization to Test (ATT). You then have 90 days to test, with one 90-day extension allowed. CCI's FAQ gave application processing as 30 to 45 business days (as of July 2025), so apply early.

3 What is on it

CCI CCT examination matrix from the credential page; item counts are 110 x share, rounded

CONTENT CATEGORY	SHARE	ABOUT THIS MANY SCORED ITEMS
A. Conducting pre-procedural activities	10%	11
B. Performing resting ECG (12-lead, 15-lead)	14%	15
C. Analyzing the 12-lead ECG	22%	24
D. Performing stress tests	10%	11
E. Performing ambulatory monitoring (Holter, remote event, telemetry)	4%	4
F. Performing rhythm analysis	40%	44

An older CCI overview PDF (June 2022), still on CCI's site, shows five categories: 12-lead analysis is folded into resting ECG (39%) and rhythm analysis is 37%. This app follows the credential page.

EXAM TIP Rhythm analysis is 40% of the exam, and with 12-lead analysis, 62% of the exam is reading tracings. Practice strips every day.

4 What each category asks

CATEGORY	TASKS YOU ARE TESTED ON
A. Pre-procedure	Check the order (protocol, patient limits); verify identifiers (name, date of birth, HIPAA); consent (implied, informed, healthcare proxy); universal and isolation precautions; transfer and body mechanics; anatomical landmarks; skin prep and positioning; equipment calibration, maintenance and cleaning; safety hazards; patient teaching
B. Resting ECG	Gather supplies; troubleshoot while recording (check the patient, electrode attachment, electromagnetic interference); standard 12-lead; modified ECGs (dextrocardia, posterior, right-sided, pediatric)
C. 12-lead analysis	Axis deviation; right and left bundle branch block; hypertrophy; matching ECG shape to anatomy and physiology; ischemia and infarction
D. Stress tests	Supplies; treadmill, bicycle and ergometer equipment; Bruce, modified Bruce and Naughton protocols; pharmacologic and nuclear stress protocols
E. Ambulatory monitoring	Supplies; check the device works before and after it goes on the patient; patient teaching; troubleshooting the device and the procedure
F. Rhythm analysis	Sinus, atrial, junctional, heart block, ventricular and pacemaker rhythms; reporting rhythm findings; waveforms, segments and intervals; life-threatening arrhythmias; types of artifact; effects of cardiovascular drug classes (beta blockers, ACE inhibitors, antiarrhythmics)

CCI's knowledge list, used across all categories: heart size, location, layers, chambers and valves; blood flow and the vessels; valve function and pressures; how cardiac output relates to heart rate and stroke volume; control mechanisms; the cardiac cycle; normal values and waveforms; ECG measurement; bipolar, unipolar and precordial leads; Einthoven's triangle and law; calibration, standardization and paper speed; single- and three-channel ECG; troubleshooting ECGs; lead placement; electrical interference and somatic tremor.

5 How to study: 6 weeks

1. Week 1: read the matrix on CCI's CCT page, then take a timed Mock Exam (130 questions, 110 minutes) as a baseline. Start Daily Review and keep it going every day. Begin Analyzing a Rhythm Strip Step by Step and read a few strips daily from now on.
2. Week 2: Pre-procedure and resting ECG. Electrode and Lead Placement (including right-sided, posterior and pediatric leads); Paper, Settings and Measurement (calibration, standardization, paper speed); Artifact and Lead Problems.
3. Week 3: 12-lead analysis. Reading a 12-Lead; AV Blocks, Bundle Branch Blocks and Pre-excitation for RBBB and LBBB. Check your axis work with the QRS Axis: Quadrant Method calculator.
4. Week 4: Rhythm analysis I. The Rhythm Gallery for sinus, atrial and junctional rhythms; heart blocks with the AV blocks page. Do Rhythm Analysis practice sets.
5. Week 5: Rhythm analysis II. Ventricular and life-threatening rhythms in the Rhythm Gallery; Pacemakers and Implanted Devices on the ECG; artifact types; what common heart drugs do to the tracing. Second Mock Exam at the end of the week.
6. Week 6: Exercise and Pharmacologic Stress Testing (with the Stress Test Target Heart Rate calculator); Holter, Event and Patch Monitors; Telemetry Monitoring and Reporting. Then Weakest Subject sets, Missed Questions and Trouble Questions. Last Mock Exam 3 to 5 days before the test.

EXAM TIP You get about 50 seconds per question. Unscored items look like scored ones, and there is no penalty for guessing, so answer every question.

6 Test-day tips

- Bring two original, unexpired IDs: a government-issued primary ID with name, photo and signature, and a secondary ID with name and signature or name and photo. First and last names must match your registration exactly.
- Arriving more than 15 minutes late means you are not admitted. A no-show loses the whole fee.
- Phones, watches, wallets, bags, coats, hats and pens go in a locker, with electronics turned off.
- You get an on-screen calculator and an erasable board and marker. Some test-takers write formulas from memory on the board at the start.
- Take the tutorial; it does not use exam time.
- Skip or mark questions for review and come back. Each question counts the same.
- You may leave the room only with the test administrator's permission.
- To reschedule, use the Pearson VUE dashboard in your CCI account at least 2 full business days ahead. Later than that, you cannot reschedule.

7 Official resources

- CCT credential page (matrix, pathways, fees, exam day): cci-online.org/credentials/certified-cardiographic-technician
- CCI Applicant Handbook (dated January 2024): linked from the CCT page as 'Download Applicant Handbook'
- Application steps: cci-online.org/apply-for-exam/exam-process
- CCI Self-Assessment Exam ($55, one attempt, percent correct by area): cci-online.org/self-assessment-exam
- FAQs (processing times, retesting, pass rates): cci-online.org/faqs
- Scheduling: pearsonvue.com/cci

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