

CNA Specialty Certification Study Guide & Resources

*Note: Top picks by members who have written the exam are **bolded***

General Textbooks

1. **Baird, M. (2022). *Manual of critical care nursing: Interprofessional collaborative management* (8th ed.). Elsevier.**
2. Burns, S. M., & Delgado, S. A. (2023). *AACN essentials of critical care nursing* (5th ed.). McGraw Hill.
3. **Dennison, R. (2024). *Pass CCRN(R) (Adult)* (6th Edition.). Elsevier.**
4. **Diepenbrock, N. (2020). *Quick reference to critical care* (6th ed.). Wolters Kluwer.**
5. **Morton, P. G., & Thurman, P. (2023). *Critical care nursing: A holistic approach* (12th ed.). Wolters Kluwer.**
6. Makic, M. B. F., & Morata, L. T. (2024). *Sole's introduction to critical care nursing* (9th ed.). Elsevier.
7. **Urden, L. D., Stacy, K. M., Lough, M. E., & Sanchez, K. (2025). *Critical care nursing: Diagnosis and management* (10th ed.). Elsevier.**
8. Urden, L. D., Stacy, K. M., & Lough, M. E. (2023). *Priorities in critical care nursing* (9th ed.). Elsevier.
9. Vincent, J. L., Moore, F. A., Bellomo, R., & Marini, J. J. (Eds.). (2022). *Textbook of critical care* (8th ed.). Elsevier.
10. **White, K. M. (2026). *Fast facts for adult critical care*. Kathy White Learning Systems.**
11. **Woodruff, D. W. (Ed.). (2026). *Critical care nursing made incredibly easy!* (6th ed.). Wolters Kluwer.**

Textbooks for Specific Topics

12. Aehlert, B. (2022). *ECGs made easy* (7th ed.). Elsevier.
13. American Heart Association. (2025). *2025 handbook of emergency cardiovascular care for healthcare providers*.
14. Cairo, J. M. (2023). *Pilbeam's mechanical ventilation: Physiological and clinical applications* (8th ed.). Elsevier.
15. **Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. (2020). *Advanced cardiovascular life support (ACLS) provider manual*.**
16. Hess, D. R., & Kacmarek, R. M. (2018). *Essentials of mechanical ventilation* (4th ed.). McGraw Hill. Hickey, J. V. (Ed.). (2019). *The clinical practice of neurological and neurosurgical nursing* (8th ed.). Wolters Kluwer.
17. Phalen, T., & Aehlert, B. (2018). *The 12-lead ECG in acute coronary syndromes* (4th ed.). Elsevier.
18. Stoller, J. K., Heuer, A. J., Vines, D. L., Chatburn, R. L., & Mireles-Cabodevila, E. (Eds.). (2024). *Egan's fundamentals of respiratory care* (13th ed.). Elsevier.

Other Resources (Guidelines and Standards)

1. Canadian Association of Critical Care Nurses. (2020). *Providing end of life care in the intensive care unit* [Position statement]. Canadian Association of Critical Care Nurses. <https://caccn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/PS2003EndofLifeICU.pdf>
2. Canadian Association of Critical Care Nurses. (2024). *Standards for critical care nursing practice* (6th ed.). Canadian Association of Critical Care Nurses. <https://caccn.ca/publications/standards-for-critical-care-nursing-practice/>
3. Devlin, J. W., Skrobik, Y., Gélinas, C., Needham, D. M., Slooter, A. J. C., Pandharipande, P. P., Watson, P. L., Weinhouse, G. L., Nunnally, M. E., Rochwerg, B., Balas, M. C., van den Boogaard, M., Bosma, K. J., Brummel, N. E., Chanques, G., Denehy, L., Drouot, X., Fraser, G. L., Harris, J. E., ... Alhazzani, W. (2018). Clinical practice guidelines for the prevention and management of pain, agitation/sedation, delirium, immobility, and sleep disruption in adult patients in the ICU. *Critical Care Medicine*, 46(9), e825–e873. <https://doi.org/10.1097/CCM.0000000000003299>
4. Ezekowitz, J. A., O'Meara, E., McDonald, M. A., Abrams, H., Chan, M., Ducharme, A., Giannetti, N., Grzeslo, A., Hamilton, P. G., Heckman, G. A., Howlett, J. G., Koshman, S. L., Lepage, S., McKelvie, R. S., Moe, G. W., Rajda, M., Swiggum, E., Virani, S. A., Zieroth, S., ... Sussex, B. (2017). 2017 comprehensive update of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society guidelines for the management of heart failure. *Canadian Journal of Cardiology*, 33(11), 1342–1433. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cjca.2017.08.022>
5. Lewis, K., Balas, M. C., Stollings, J. L., McNett, M., Girard, T. D., Chanques, G., Kho, M. E., Pandharipande, P. P., Weinhouse, G. L., Brummel, N. E., Chlan, L. L., Cordoza, M., Duby, J. J., Gélinas, C., Hall-Melnychuk, E. L., Krupp, A., Louzon, P. R., Tate, J. A., Young, B., ... Aldrich, J. M. (2025). A focused update to the clinical practice guidelines for the prevention and management of pain, anxiety, agitation/sedation, delirium, immobility, and sleep disruption in adult patients in the ICU. *Critical Care Medicine*, 53(3), e711–e727. <https://doi.org/10.1097/CCM.0000000000006574>
6. McDonald, M., Virani, S., Chan, M., Ducharme, A., Ezekowitz, J. A., Giannetti, N., Heckman, G. A., Howlett, J. G., Koshman, S. L., Lepage, S., Mielniczuk, L., Moe, G. W., O'Meara, E., Swiggum, E., Toma, M., Zieroth, S., Anderson, K., Bray, S. A., Clarke, B., & Yip, A. M. C. (2021). CCS/CHFS heart failure guidelines update: Defining a new pharmacologic standard of care for heart failure with reduced ejection fraction. *Canadian Journal of Cardiology*, 37(4), 531–546. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cjca.2021.01.017>
7. Prescott, H. C., Antonelli, M., Alhazzani, W., Møller, M. H., Alshamsi, F., Azevedo, L. C. P., Belley-Cote, E., De Waele, J., Derde, L., Dionne, J. C., Evans, L., Gershengorn, H. B., Hodgson, C. L., Honarmand, K., Kesecioglu, J., McIntyre, L., Mer, M., Nunnally, M. E., Oczkowski, S. J. W., & Coopersmith, C. M. (2026). Surviving sepsis campaign: International guidelines for management of sepsis and septic shock 2026. *Critical Care Medicine*, 54(4), 725–812. <https://doi.org/10.1097/CCM.0000000000007075>
8. Virani, S. A., Zieroth, S., Aleksova, N., Anderson, K., Clarke, B., Ducharme, A., Ezekowitz, J. A., Foroutan, F., Giannetti, N., Jain, R., Lee, D., Lepage, S., Lyons, K., McDonald, M., McGuinty, C., Mielniczuk, L., O'Meara, E., Poon, S., Siatecki, K., & Yip, A. M. C. (2025). Canadian Cardiovascular Society/Canadian Heart Failure Society 2025 guideline update for pharmacologic management of heart failure with nonreduced ejection fraction (LVEF > 40%). *Canadian Journal of Cardiology*, 41(10), 1857–1874. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cjca.2025.07.027>