Frequently Asked Questions for the Situational Judgment Exercise (SJE) for Renewal of ACHPN® or CHPN® Certification

Q: What is the SJE?

A: The Situational Judgment Exercise (SJE) uses a series of case based scenarios to demonstrate critical reasoning and clinical application of content beyond the level of the initial certification exam. The SJE provides an in-depth assessment of the approach to handle the complexity of real life clinical situations. In addition to assessment and treatment decision making, it also addresses ethical and professional topics including team building, communication, public policy and research. The exercise is reflective of current evidence-based practice in hospice/palliative care in a variety of settings.

Q: How does it relate to HPAR?

A: The SJE is a **required** component of the Hospice and Palliative Accrual for Recertification (HPAR) process for all ACHPN®s or CHPN®s renewing their credential. However it is only one of several professional development activities needed for completion of HPAR. The HPAR informational packets are available on the HPCC website.

Q: How much does the SJE cost?

A: The SJE is available through our testing company PSI/Applied Measurement Professionals, Inc. (PSI/AMP) in their e-store. You will need to purchase the SJE using a credit card at the cost of $60.00. Although the HPAR fee remains unchanged, adjustments will be made to reflect payment of the SJE when you submit your completed HPAR. This fee is NOT an additional fee. It is incorporated into the current HPAR fee.

Q: Where do I access the SJE?

A: The SJE is available through PSI/AMP and the AMP E-Store. It is a secure site with restricted access, however, you may need to create a password for the site at no charge to purchase the SJE. To create a login and password, follow this link: **Creating an Account**.

After creating your account, please DO NOT follow the email links from PSI/AMP. Follow the link below, enter your HPCC certification number, and submit. Do not log in. Click "Add to Cart" first.

Access to Purchasing Process for SJE

Q: What browser do I need to use to access the SJE?

A: To take this learning exercise on the web, you should use the latest version of Internet Explorer. You must also have the 'cookies enabled' feature set on your browser. Other browsers may or may not work, so using the latest Internet Explorer will yield the best results. A reliable and persistent Internet connection is required.

Q: How long do I have to complete the SJE?

A: An eligible candidate has **30 days from the date of purchase** to complete the SJE.

Q: How do I study for the SJE?

A: The SJE is "open book" and using references is highly encouraged. The SJE was derived from was derived from the test content outline located in either the ACHPN® or CHPN® candidate handbook found on the HPCC website, **www.gohpcc.org**. The reference list in the candidate handbook should be utilized as well as any additional reference materials that you deem necessary, such as current journals, textbooks or online resources.

Q.   How do I use the software?
A.   Information regarding the SJE software is available to you at several intervals once you purchase the exercise and proceed through it. You may also preview the instructions here for either the **ACHPN®** or **CHPN®**. You are encouraged to carefully read the instructions and scenarios, look things up using resource materials, consult with colleagues as needed, and think about your responses.

Q: Can I skip a question and come back to it later?
A: You **CANNOT** skip a question while completing the SJE. **Clicking on the SKIP button will result in a zero (0) for that case scenario.** If you come across a scenario that you would not like to complete at that time, it is encouraged to exit the SJE and then return to work on it again at a later time within the 30 day time frame allotted.

Q: What if I accidentally click on the SKIP button?
A: Clicking on the SKIP button will result in a zero (0) for that case scenario and cannot be undone.

Q: How is the SJE scored?
A: For ACHPN®s, there are a series of eight (8) case scenarios, with six (6) scored and two (2) as pretest items interspersed throughout the SJE. For CHPN®s, there are a series of six (6) case scenarios, with five (5) scored and one (1) as a pretest item interspersed. Performance on the pretest items in either case does NOT affect your score.

The structure of the SJE problems is such that there are usually two Information Gathering (IG) sections and five or six Decision Making (DM) sections. The SJE scenarios are designed with the intention of IG and DM reflecting two different underlying constructs relevant to hospice and palliative nursing practice at the appropriate level, and previous analysis has indicated that IG and DM are measuring different competencies. Therefore, candidates' performance is evaluated according to scores achieved on the aggregate of the IG sections and the aggregate of the DM sections.

Q: Will the SJE count for points towards my HPAR renewal?
A: Completion of the SJE will count for points towards your HPAR.

Performance and HPAR points:

How your scores meet or exceed the total "Passing Score" (MPL) on both IG and DM will determine the number of HPAR points earned.

Performance Category	Points (ACHPN®)	Points (CHPN®)
Meet or exceed MPL on *both* IG **and** DM	25	20
Meet or exceed MPL on *either* IG **or** DM	15	10
Below MPL on both IG and DM	5	5

Q: How will I be notified of my results?
A: Candidates can obtain a performance report at the completion of the SJE. Upon completion of the SJE **you must select** "view" your reports. A "detailed score" report provides your score for each simulation. Also available is a "responses report" which provides a summary of progress through each simulation showing your chosen options and comments/explanations for each chosen option. Your performance report will be sent to your learning plan within the LearningBuilder platform for your ACHPN® or CHPN® HPAR.

Q: What if there is a power failure or my computer goes down in the middle of the SJE?
A: If a candidate experiences a power outage or a loss of Internet connection, they would need to log in again and the responses made up to that point are saved. The candidate will pick up where they left off when they lost connection.