

## Executive summary

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This report describes the methodology and results of a practice analysis conducted by PSI Services LLC (PSI) to develop a reliable and valid examination program for Certified Specialists in Oncology Nutrition (CSO) program. A content validation strategy was employed to establish the link between job competencies and the content of the examination. All aspects of the practice analysis were in accordance with principles and practices outlined in the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing (American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, & National Council on Measurement in Education, 1999).

The practice analysis was based on multiple sources of information, including individual interviews, expert panels, and a survey questionnaire, to ensure that the findings would be job related and representative of the important activities performed by practitioners who worked with cancer patients and cancer survivors. The survey questionnaire was distributed to 621 CSOs and 985 individuals who were members of Oncology Nutrition Dietetic Practice Group (DPG). A total of 336 practitioners from a wide range of practice settings and geographic regions completed the practice analysis survey.

Content specifications based on the task ratings from the practice analysis survey reflect nine content areas:

Content Area	Percentage of Examination
I. Nutrition Assessment and Diagnosis	45
II. Nutrition Care	40
III. Re-Assessment and Outcomes	11
IV. Risk Reduction	4

At every juncture, the practice analysis and the examination development processes involve participation by committees of subject matter experts to ensure that the examinations are job related and written at the level of minimum competence.

All documentation necessary to verify that the validation process has been implemented in accordance to professional standards are included in the report.