

ANCC NURSING INFORMATICS CERTIFICATION PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	15

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. Which of the following is an application of an algorithm?**
 - A. Potent application
 - B. Comprehensive application
 - C. Certification application
 - D. None of the above

- 2. In knowledge discovery in databases, what is the primary outcome of applying algorithms in data mining?**
 - A. Sorting patient names
 - B. Storing data in data warehouse
 - C. Extracting patterns not readily apparent to human decision makers
 - D. Generating billing codes

- 3. Which type of software is responsible for storage management?**
 - A. Creativity
 - B. Operating system
 - C. Productivity
 - D. Communication

- 4. What are 'bugs' in computer language typically referred to as?**
 - A. A testing methodology
 - B. Aberrancies
 - C. Commentary within the code indicated with an asterisk
 - D. The nickname of the coder who designed the first EHR

- 5. Which of the following topics can be associated with ergonomics?**
 - A. Optimal productivity
 - B. Safety and efficiency
 - C. Work-related risks and injuries
 - D. All of the above

- 6. CDS in an EHR stands for which term?**
 - A. Clinical Data System
 - B. Clinical Decision Support
 - C. Care Decision System
 - D. Computerized Diagnostic Support

7. What is information?

- A. The building blocks of wisdom
- B. Organized alphanumeric characters
- C. Data that are interpreted, organized or structured
- D. Data that are used to support decision-making

8. Which is not a characteristic of data quality in healthcare?

- A. Relevancy
- B. Open access
- C. Accuracy
- D. Consistency

9. Which technique is used to prioritize problems by focusing on the few causes that contribute most to the effect?

- A. Pareto Analysis
- B. FMEA
- C. Ishikawa Diagram
- D. Run Chart

10. PHI stands for:

- A. Physician Hospital Interchange.
- B. Password Hint Indicator.
- C. Potential Hardware Incursion.
- D. Protected Health Information.

Answers

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1. D
2. C
3. B
4. B
5. D
6. B
7. C
8. B
9. A
10. D

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following is an application of an algorithm?

- A. Potent application
- B. Comprehensive application
- C. Certification application
- D. None of the above**

An algorithm is a precise, step-by-step procedure for solving a problem. An application of an algorithm means the real-world task or problem where you actually use that sequence of steps to get a result, such as sorting a list, searching for a item, routing a path, or encrypting data. The options given don't name any actual task or domain where an algorithm would be applied. They're adjectives followed by the word "application," which describe quality rather than a concrete application or problem to solve. Because none of these describe a true algorithmic task, none of them represent an application of an algorithm. None of the above is the best answer.

2. In knowledge discovery in databases, what is the primary outcome of applying algorithms in data mining?

- A. Sorting patient names
- B. Storing data in data warehouse
- C. Extracting patterns not readily apparent to human decision makers**
- D. Generating billing codes

The main idea is that data mining algorithms are used to uncover patterns, relationships, and models that aren't obvious to people when looking at large amounts of data. By applying statistical methods, machine learning, and pattern discovery techniques to databases, they reveal insights such as frequent co-occurrences, associations, clusters, or predictive rules. This extracted knowledge can inform decisions, guide interventions, and support improvements in patient care and operations. For example, algorithms might reveal a combination of factors that predicts higher risk for a complication, information that isn't apparent from reviewing individual records alone. Other activities like simply sorting names, storing data in a data warehouse, or generating billing codes are routine data management tasks and do not constitute discovering new insights from the data.

3. Which type of software is responsible for storage management?

- A. Creativity
- B. Operating system**
- C. Productivity
- D. Communication

Storage management is handled by the operating system because it coordinates how data is stored, retrieved, and organized on storage devices. The OS provides the file system, allocates disk space, tracks free space, and manages input/output operations, caching, and even virtual memory that uses storage as a backing store. It abstracts hardware details so applications don't need to manage where every bit sits on a disk. Applications such as creativity tools, productivity suites, or communication apps perform their specific tasks and rely on the OS to handle storing and retrieving files. So, the operating system is responsible for storage management.

4. What are 'bugs' in computer language typically referred to as?

- A. A testing methodology
- B. Aberrancies**
- C. Commentary within the code indicated with an asterisk
- D. The nickname of the coder who designed the first EHR

Bugs are defects in software—errors in the code that cause the program to behave incorrectly or fail to meet expectations. The term aberrancies fits this idea because it refers to deviations from the intended functionality. They aren't a testing methodology, they aren't code comments indicated with an asterisk, and they aren't a coder's nickname. When a bug is found, it's investigated, reproduced, and documented so it can be fixed and verified.

5. Which of the following topics can be associated with ergonomics?

- A. Optimal productivity
- B. Safety and efficiency
- C. Work-related risks and injuries
- D. All of the above**

Ergonomics focuses on designing work to fit people so they can perform tasks safely, comfortably, and effectively. When workstations, tools, and processes are aligned with human abilities, safety improves and tasks can be completed more efficiently, boosting productivity. At the same time, ergonomics targets reducing risks and injuries by addressing posture, repetitive motions, force, and cognitive load. Because it covers improving productivity, enhancing safety and efficiency, and lowering work-related risks and injuries, ergonomics is associated with all of the above.

6. CDS in an EHR stands for which term?

- A. Clinical Data System
- B. Clinical Decision Support**
- C. Care Decision System
- D. Computerized Diagnostic Support

Clinical Decision Support is the term used for the tools inside an EHR that analyze patient data and provide clinicians with evidence-based recommendations, alerts, and reminders at the point of care. This helps support decision-making, prompt safety checks (like drug interactions or allergy alerts), and adherence to guidelines. Examples include drug interaction alerts, dose range checks, allergy checks, and patient-specific order sets. The other terms—Clinical Data System, Care Decision System, or Computerized Diagnostic Support—are not the standard designation for this functionality.

7. What is information?

- A. The building blocks of wisdom
- B. Organized alphanumeric characters
- C. Data that are interpreted, organized or structured**
- D. Data that are used to support decision-making

Information happens when data are interpreted, organized, or structured to add meaning. Data are raw facts—numbers, observations, or measurements. When you interpret them and arrange them in a context or pattern (for example, by patient, time, and relevance to current conditions), they become information that you can understand and act on. This distinction matters because raw data alone don't tell you much; it's the processing and context that turn them into something meaningful. In a health informatics sense, for instance, a list of vital signs is data. When you interpret those signs in light of a patient's history and current symptoms and present them as a trend or alert, you've created information that supports understanding and decision-making. The idea that information is simply organized alphanumeric characters is too narrow, and the notion that data used for decision-making defines information overlooks that interpretation and context are what give data their meaning. Similarly, the notion that information is just the building blocks of wisdom doesn't capture the practical meaning added by interpretation and organization.

8. Which is not a characteristic of data quality in healthcare?

- A. Relevancy
- B. Open access**
- C. Accuracy
- D. Consistency

Data quality in healthcare is defined by attributes that describe how useful and trustworthy the data are for clinical decisions. Relevancy ensures the information collected supports the specific question or task at hand; accuracy ensures the values correctly reflect the patient's state or event; consistency ensures data are uniform across systems and over time, reducing contradictions. Open access, while important for ensuring data can be viewed by authorized users, does not measure the data's correctness, completeness, or usefulness. It concerns who can access the data and under what conditions, not the quality of the data content itself. Therefore, open access is not a data quality characteristic.

9. Which technique is used to prioritize problems by focusing on the few causes that contribute most to the effect?

- A. Pareto Analysis**
- B. FMEA
- C. Ishikawa Diagram
- D. Run Chart

Pareto analysis uses the 80/20 idea to prioritize problems by focusing on the few causes that contribute most to the effect. By collecting data on issues and ranking them from most to least significant, you identify the "vital few" causes that account for the majority of the impact. Displaying this information in a Pareto chart highlights which problems to tackle first, so improvements yield the greatest overall benefit with limited resources. In practice, you tally problem occurrences or costs, sort them, and examine the cumulative impact to see when a small set of causes explains most of the effect. This approach is especially useful when multiple issues exist but only a subset drives the bulk of the problem. Other tools serve different purposes: FMEA evaluates potential failure modes by severity, occurrence, and detection to prioritize risk across many possible failures; the Ishikawa diagram maps out relationships between causes and effects but doesn't inherently rank them; the Run chart tracks process performance over time to spot trends without directly identifying or prioritizing root causes.

10. PHI stands for:

- A. Physician Hospital Interchange.
- B. Password Hint Indicator.
- C. Potential Hardware Incursion.
- D. Protected Health Information.**

PHI stands for Protected Health Information. The idea behind this term is that any data about a person's health status, health care provided, or payment for care that could identify that person must be safeguarded. This includes identifiers like name, birth date, contact details, medical records, test results, diagnoses, treatment information, and billing data, in any format—electronic, paper, or spoken. The reason this is the correct interpretation is that HIPAA defines PHI as health information that can be linked to an individual, requiring privacy protections and access controls. If information is de-identified so it can't be tied to a person, it isn't PHI. This concept underpins why nursing informatics emphasizes secure handling, encryption, audit trails, and strict policies to protect patients' privacy.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://anccnursinginformatics.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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