

# Boston Reed Pharmacy Technician Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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## **Questions**

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- 1. What is a key advantage of oral dosage forms?**
  - A. Requires professional administration**
  - B. Higher cost than other forms**
  - C. Safe and convenient**
  - D. Immediate effect**
- 2. Which dosage form can last longer due to its slow release of medication?**
  - A. Tablet**
  - B. Transdermal patch**
  - C. Injectable**
  - D. Capsule**
- 3. Which of the following is NOT a component of a hard copy prescription?**
  - A. Patient name**
  - B. Amount of medication**
  - C. Insurance policy number**
  - D. Prescriber's address**
- 4. What auxiliary label should be placed on suspension prescriptions?**
  - A. Take with food**
  - B. Shake Well**
  - C. Photoprotect**
  - D. Keep Refrigerated**
- 5. What is Doxepin primarily used to treat?**
  - A. Anxiety**
  - B. Depression**
  - C. Schizophrenia**
  - D. ADHD**

- 6. What should a pharmacy do if they receive a medication with incorrect labeling?**
- A. Use the medication anyway**
  - B. Destroy the medication**
  - C. Return it to the supplier**
  - D. Inform patients to disregard the label**
- 7. Where are subcutaneous injections most commonly administered?**
- A. Back**
  - B. Lower abdomen**
  - C. Forearm**
  - D. Neck**
- 8. Which of the following is not a common type of parenteral route?**
- A. Intravenous**
  - B. Subcutaneous**
  - C. Intramuscular**
  - D. Rectal**
- 9. How is drug abuse defined?**
- A. Using a drug exactly as prescribed**
  - B. Using a drug to enhance physical appearance**
  - C. Using a drug for purposes other than prescribed or in amounts other than prescribed**
  - D. Using a drug with alcohol**
- 10. Which auxiliary label would be appropriate for a medication that must be taken with food?**
- A. Take with food**
  - B. Shake Well**
  - C. May cause drowsiness**
  - D. Take on an empty stomach**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What is a key advantage of oral dosage forms?**

- A. Requires professional administration**
- B. Higher cost than other forms**
- C. Safe and convenient**
- D. Immediate effect**

Oral dosage forms, such as tablets and capsules, are considered safe and convenient for several reasons. One of the main advantages is that they can be easily self-administered by patients without the need for professional assistance, which enhances patient compliance and convenience. This allows patients to take their medications at home or in various settings, leading to a more consistent and manageable treatment regimen. Moreover, oral dosage forms are generally well-accepted by patients due to their ease of use and the familiar nature of swallowing a pill or capsule. They often require no specialized equipment for administration, unlike other forms, such as injections or infusions that could necessitate trained personnel. In addition, oral medications tend to have longer shelf lives and don't require refrigeration, adding to their practicality. While there are other dosage forms that may have quicker onset times or specific benefits for particular conditions, the combination of safety and convenience is a standout feature of oral medications, making them a preferred option for many patients and healthcare providers alike.

**2. Which dosage form can last longer due to its slow release of medication?**

- A. Tablet**
- B. Transdermal patch**
- C. Injectable**
- D. Capsule**

**3. Which of the following is NOT a component of a hard copy prescription?**

- A. Patient name**
- B. Amount of medication**
- C. Insurance policy number**
- D. Prescriber's address**

The correct answer highlights that the insurance policy number is not a standard component of a hard copy prescription. A hard copy prescription typically includes vital information necessary for dispensing medication, such as the patient's name, which identifies who the medication is for, the amount of medication, which specifies the dosage to be provided, and the prescriber's address, which is essential for verifying the legitimacy of the prescription and for record-keeping purposes. In contrast, the insurance policy number pertains to the patient's coverage details and is generally not included on the prescription itself. This information is typically handled separately in the billing process or insurance documentation rather than being a requisite on the prescription format that healthcare providers or pharmacies adhere to. Understanding the components of a prescription is crucial for pharmacy technicians, as it ensures compliance with legal and professional standards in medication dispensing.

**4. What auxiliary label should be placed on suspension prescriptions?**

- A. Take with food**
- B. Shake Well**
- C. Photoprotect**
- D. Keep Refrigerated**

The correct answer, "Shake Well," is essential for suspension prescriptions because these medications are formulated as liquid mixtures that contain solid particles suspended in a liquid. Over time, the solid particles can settle at the bottom of the container, leading to an uneven distribution of the active ingredient. Shaking the bottle prior to use ensures that the medication is well-mixed and that the patient receives an accurate dose that contains the proper concentration of the active ingredient. Considering the other options, "Take with food" is typically used for medications that may cause gastrointestinal upset if taken on an empty stomach, which does not pertain specifically to suspensions. "Photoprotect" would indicate that the medication should be protected from light, but this is not a standard requirement for most suspensions. "Keep Refrigerated" may apply to some liquid medications but is not a universal instruction for all suspensions, making "Shake Well" the most relevant and important auxiliary label for these types of prescriptions.

**5. What is Doxepin primarily used to treat?**

- A. Anxiety**
- B. Depression**
- C. Schizophrenia**
- D. ADHD**

Doxepin is primarily used to treat depression, which positions it as a tricyclic antidepressant. This medication works by influencing neurotransmitters in the brain, specifically norepinephrine and serotonin, which play critical roles in mood regulation. While Doxepin can also have off-label uses, such as for anxiety or insomnia, its main indication remains the treatment of depressive disorders. The emphasis on its primary use as an antidepressant highlights its role in alleviating the symptoms of depression, making it a crucial option for individuals diagnosed with this condition. In the context of the other conditions listed, anxiety might be treated with Doxepin but not as its primary indication; schizophrenia is typically managed with antipsychotics, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is generally treated with stimulants or other specific medications designed for that condition. Hence, its primary classification and usage in the treatment of depression are what affirm the correctness of selecting that option.

**6. What should a pharmacy do if they receive a medication with incorrect labeling?**

- A. Use the medication anyway**
- B. Destroy the medication**
- C. Return it to the supplier**
- D. Inform patients to disregard the label**

Returning the medication to the supplier is the appropriate course of action when a pharmacy receives a medication with incorrect labeling. This ensures that the pharmacy does not inadvertently dispense a medication that could lead to medication errors, which can pose serious health risks to patients. By returning the medication, the pharmacy helps maintain safety standards and assures that the supplier can rectify the labeling issue. This action also upholds regulatory compliance, as pharmacies are required to ensure that all medications are correctly labeled according to established guidelines. Returning the medication allows the supplier to address the labeling problem, potentially preventing future occurrences and ensuring that other pharmacies do not face the same issue. Overall, returning the incorrectly labeled medication promotes patient safety and maintains the integrity of the medication distribution system.

**7. Where are subcutaneous injections most commonly administered?**

- A. Back**
- B. Lower abdomen**
- C. Forearm**
- D. Neck**

Subcutaneous injections are most commonly administered in the lower abdomen due to several factors that make this site ideal for the procedure. The lower abdomen has a layer of fatty tissue that is suitable for the absorption of medications given through subcutaneous routes. This area allows for the injection to be relatively painless and minimizes the risk of injury to muscles and major blood vessels. Additionally, this site provides consistent absorption rates for medications, making it a preferred location for administering vaccines, insulin, and other biologics. The accessibility of the lower abdomen for patients and healthcare providers further enhances its use for self-administration and routine injections. Other areas such as the back, forearm, and neck may not provide the same ease of access or consistent absorption, making them less commonly used for subcutaneous injections. The forearm is sometimes used, but it is often more suitable for intradermal or intravenous uses, and the back or neck may not offer the necessary fat layer for optimal absorption.

**8. Which of the following is not a common type of parenteral route?**

- A. Intravenous**
- B. Subcutaneous**
- C. Intramuscular**
- D. Rectal**

The parenteral route refers to the administration of medications or fluids bypassing the gastrointestinal tract, typically involving injections. The most common types of parenteral routes include intravenous, subcutaneous, and intramuscular methods, each serving distinct purposes and utilizing different injection sites. Intravenous administration involves delivering substances directly into a vein, allowing for rapid onset of action and precise control over dosage. Subcutaneous injections are administered into the fatty tissue layer beneath the skin, providing a slower absorption rate. Intramuscular injections involve delivering medication deep into a muscle, which allows for a faster absorption compared to subcutaneous injections. In contrast, the rectal route is classified as enteral rather than parenteral. It involves the installation of medication via the rectum, which is associated with the gastrointestinal system and is typically used for patients who may not be able to ingest medications orally due to nausea, vomiting, or other conditions. Therefore, identifying rectal administration as not a common type of parenteral route is accurate, as it does not fit the definition that involves bypassing the digestive system through injection methods.

**9. How is drug abuse defined?**

- A. Using a drug exactly as prescribed**
- B. Using a drug to enhance physical appearance**
- C. Using a drug for purposes other than prescribed or in amounts other than prescribed**
- D. Using a drug with alcohol**

The definition of drug abuse centers on the misuse of substances either by taking them in a manner not intended by the prescribing physician or by using them for non-medical reasons. This usage can manifest as taking a drug in greater amounts than prescribed or using a drug for purposes other than those it was intended to treat. This misappropriation of a drug often leads to negative consequences, both physically and psychologically. In this context, using a drug in ways that deviate from medical guidance exemplifies drug abuse, which includes behaviors like recreational use, taking higher doses for intensified effects, or using medications meant for pain relief to achieve a sense of euphoria. Recognizing this definition helps healthcare professionals identify and address potential issues of substance misuse in their practice. Contrastingly, using a drug exactly as prescribed focuses on adherence and proper utilization, which does not constitute abuse. Enhancing physical appearance can be a gray area, but it is not specifically tied to the concept of drug abuse unless it involves misuse of medications. Similarly, using a drug with alcohol can certainly be dangerous or lead to addiction, but this behavior does not inherently align with the broader definition of drug abuse unless it involves misusing prescribed medications for an unintended purpose.

**10. Which auxiliary label would be appropriate for a medication that must be taken with food?**

**A. Take with food**

**B. Shake Well**

**C. May cause drowsiness**

**D. Take on an empty stomach**

The label indicating "Take with food" is appropriate for medications that require food to enhance absorption or reduce gastrointestinal irritation. This instruction helps ensure that the medication is more effective and minimizes potential side effects that could arise from taking it on an empty stomach. For instance, certain medications may be better tolerated when the stomach is not empty, thereby preventing nausea or discomfort. In the context of the other labels: "Shake Well" is relevant for suspensions or solutions that require mixing before administration, while "May cause drowsiness" provides a warning for medications that can impair alertness, and "Take on an empty stomach" is contradictory to the requirement for this medication. Therefore, "Take with food" directly addresses the specific instructions necessary for optimal use of the medication in question.