

California Certifying Board for Medical Assistants (CCBMA) Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Questions

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- 1. What does the prefix "osteo-" refer to?**
 - A. Cartilage**
 - B. Joint**
 - C. Tissue**
 - D. Bone**
- 2. What connotation does the prefix "tachy-" have regarding speed?**
 - A. Normal speed**
 - B. Slow**
 - C. Fast**
 - D. Irregular**
- 3. How should medical assistants approach patient touch?**
 - A. It should be avoided at all costs**
 - B. It should be done only if the patient agrees**
 - C. It can be used freely without concern**
 - D. Touch is always inappropriate**
- 4. Which abbreviation indicates "two times a day"?**
 - A. t.i.d.**
 - B. q.i.d.**
 - C. b.i.d.**
 - D. q.4h**
- 5. What medical condition is characterized by the loss of calcium in the bones?**
 - A. Osteoporosis**
 - B. Osteoarthritis**
 - C. Osteopenia**
 - D. Osteomalacia**
- 6. Which prefix suggests a reduced quantity or rate?**
 - A. Hyper-**
 - B. Hypo-**
 - C. Oligo-**
 - D. Ophthalmo-**

- 7. What does the term 'abduction' mean in the context of body movements?**
- A. Movement towards the body**
 - B. Movement away from the body**
 - C. Rotation of a limb**
 - D. Flexing a joint**
- 8. Which suffix refers to the act of swallowing?**
- A. -phagia**
 - B. -sthesia**
 - C. -trophy**
 - D. -emia**
- 9. What is the meaning of the suffix "-itis"?**
- A. Condition**
 - B. Inflammation**
 - C. Abnormal growth**
 - D. Removal**
- 10. What is the relationship between sender and receiver during communication?**
- A. One person communicates without feedback**
 - B. Both persons will alternate roles**
 - C. The sender provides information while the receiver listens**
 - D. The receiver ignores the sender's message**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does the prefix "osteo-" refer to?

- A. Cartilage**
- B. Joint**
- C. Tissue**
- D. Bone**

The prefix "osteo-" is derived from the Greek word "osteon," which means bone. It is commonly used in medical terminology to indicate something related to bones. For instance, terms like "osteoporosis" (where "porosis" refers to a porous condition of the bone) and "osteopathy" (a type of alternative medicine based on the treatment of medical disorders through the manipulation and massage of the skeleton and musculature) both illustrate the connection to bone. In this context, the other terms listed have distinct prefixes that indicate their specific meanings. For example, "cartilage" is often represented by the prefix "chondr-," "joint" is prefixed with "arthr-," and "tissue" is generally associated with "tiss-" or similar variations. Therefore, when focusing on the meaning of "osteo-," it is clear that it unequivocally pertains to bone.

2. What connotation does the prefix "tachy-" have regarding speed?

- A. Normal speed**
- B. Slow**
- C. Fast**
- D. Irregular**

The prefix "tachy-" originates from the Greek word "tachys," which means "quick" or "swift." As such, it is commonly used in medical terminology to indicate a condition or characteristic that is related to increased speed or rapidity. For instance, in terms like "tachycardia," it refers to an elevated heart rate, emphasizing the notion of rapidity in heartbeats. This understanding of "tachy-" as indicating something fast is crucial for interpreting various medical terms correctly. It reinforces the importance of prefixes in medical vocabulary, as they often provide key insights into the nature of a condition, especially regarding speed or rate.

3. How should medical assistants approach patient touch?

- A. It should be avoided at all costs
- B. It should be done only if the patient agrees**
- C. It can be used freely without concern
- D. Touch is always inappropriate

The emphasis on obtaining the patient's agreement before touching is crucial in medical practice, particularly in the context of patient care and the principles of patient-centered approaches. This choice aligns with the ethical considerations of respect for patient autonomy and consent. Medical assistants, as well as any healthcare providers, must ensure that a patient's comfort and personal boundaries are prioritized. Touch can play a significant role in providing care, such as during examinations, assessments, or administering treatments. However, the necessity of consent ensures that patients feel safe and respected throughout their healthcare experience. Moreover, this approach fosters trust between the patient and the healthcare provider, encouraging open communication. When a patient is involved in decisions about their care, including whether or not they are comfortable with physical touch, it leads to a more positive overall experience and enhances the therapeutic relationship. In contrast, the other options either encourage avoidance of touch or generalize that touch is inappropriate, which overlooks the importance of context and patient preferences in care.

4. Which abbreviation indicates "two times a day"?

- A. t.i.d.
- B. q.i.d.
- C. b.i.d.**
- D. q.4h

The abbreviation that indicates "two times a day" is b.i.d., which stands for "bis in die" in Latin. This term is commonly used in medical prescriptions and signifies that a medication should be taken twice daily, typically at evenly spaced intervals. This is crucial for maintaining a consistent level of medication in the bloodstream and ensuring optimal therapeutic effects. In contrast, the other abbreviations serve different purposes: t.i.d. refers to "three times a day," q.i.d. means "four times a day," and q.4h indicates that a medication should be taken every four hours. Understanding these abbreviations is essential for proper medication administration and for avoiding potential dosing errors in a clinical setting.

5. What medical condition is characterized by the loss of calcium in the bones?

- A. Osteoporosis**
- B. Osteoarthritis**
- C. Osteopenia**
- D. Osteomalacia**

The condition characterized by the loss of calcium in the bones is osteoporosis. This disease weakens bones, making them more fragile and susceptible to fractures. It occurs when there is an imbalance between the resorption of bone and the formation of new bone, leading to a reduction in bone density and structural integrity. Osteoporosis is particularly associated with aging and hormonal changes, especially in postmenopausal women when estrogen levels drop. The condition is often asymptomatic until a fracture occurs, which can happen with minimal trauma in cases of severe bone loss. While osteopenia also refers to lower than normal bone density, it is a milder form of bone density loss and does not necessarily indicate that significant calcium loss has occurred to the extent seen in osteoporosis. Osteomalacia is caused by a deficiency of vitamin D, leading to the softening of bones due to inadequate mineralization, while osteoarthritis is primarily a joint disorder. Therefore, the defining characteristics of osteoporosis make it the most appropriate answer for the loss of calcium in the bones.

6. Which prefix suggests a reduced quantity or rate?

- A. Hyper-**
- B. Hypo-**
- C. Oligo-**
- D. Ophthalmo-**

The prefix that suggests a reduced quantity or rate is "hypo-." This prefix is derived from the Greek word "hypo," meaning "under," "below," or "beneath." In medical terminology, "hypo-" is often used to describe conditions where there is a decrease in the normal level of a substance or function. For example, "hypoglycemia" refers to lower than normal blood sugar levels, while "hypotension" indicates lower than normal blood pressure. This is distinct from other prefixes: "hyper-" signifies an increased quantity or rate, as in "hyperglycemia," which means elevated blood sugar levels. "Oligo-" refers to scarcity or a small amount, often seen in contexts like "oliguria," which indicates reduced urine output. Meanwhile, "ophthalmo-" pertains to the eye and does not imply any quantity or rate. Understanding these prefixes is crucial for accurately interpreting medical terms and their associated conditions.

7. What does the term 'abduction' mean in the context of body movements?

- A. Movement towards the body**
- B. Movement away from the body**
- C. Rotation of a limb**
- D. Flexing a joint**

In the context of body movements, 'abduction' refers to the movement of a limb or body part away from the midline of the body. This term is commonly used in anatomy to describe actions in various joints, such as the arms or legs. For instance, when you raise your arms to the side, you are performing abduction. This movement is essential in various physical activities and is the opposite of adduction, which would describe movement toward the midline of the body. Understanding abduction is critical for health professionals when assessing patient mobility and in developing rehabilitation exercises.

8. Which suffix refers to the act of swallowing?

- A. -phagia**
- B. -sthesia**
- C. -trophy**
- D. -emia**

The suffix -phagia is derived from the Greek word "phagein," which means "to eat" or "to swallow." In medical terminology, it specifically refers to the act of swallowing or the intake of food. When this suffix is used, it often appears in words that describe specific swallowing conditions or disorders, such as dysphagia, which refers to difficulty swallowing. This makes -phagia the correct suffix in the context of this question. The other suffixes have different meanings: -sthesia relates to sensation or perception, -trophy refers to nourishment or growth, and -emia pertains to blood conditions. Thus, it is the specific definition of -phagia that clearly identifies it as the suffix associated with the act of swallowing.

9. What is the meaning of the suffix "-itis"?

- A. Condition**
- B. Inflammation**
- C. Abnormal growth**
- D. Removal**

The suffix "-itis" is widely recognized in medical terminology as indicating inflammation. This suffix is derived from Greek and is often used to denote inflammatory conditions affecting various body parts. For example, "arthritis" refers to inflammation of the joints, "appendicitis" refers to inflammation of the appendix, and "dermatitis" denotes inflammation of the skin. When understanding medical terms, recognizing suffixes like "-itis" helps to quickly ascertain the nature of a condition. In this case, knowing that it signifies inflammation is crucial for interpreting various health conditions and communicating effectively in a medical setting. Understanding this can aid medical assistants in properly documenting patient conditions, informing patient education, and recognizing signs and symptoms during assessments.

10. What is the relationship between sender and receiver during communication?

A. One person communicates without feedback

B. Both persons will alternate roles

C. The sender provides information while the receiver listens

D. The receiver ignores the sender's message

The most accurate depiction of the relationship between sender and receiver in effective communication is that both parties engage in a dynamic interaction, often alternating roles. This is fundamental to successful communication, where not only does the sender convey information, but the receiver also provides feedback, which can shape future discourse. In effective communication, the sender transmits information and has the responsibility to ensure the message is clear. Meanwhile, the receiver actively listens and interprets the message, often responding in ways that can clarify, enhance, or redirect the conversation. As the dialogue progresses, they may switch roles, where the receiver then becomes the sender and vice versa, facilitating a more robust exchange of ideas and understanding. This mutual engagement is critical for clear and effective communication, allowing for shared understanding and collaboration. The other options do not encapsulate the reciprocal nature of communication. One-way communication without feedback limits the interaction and can lead to misunderstandings. Similarly, if the receiver ignores the message, the purpose of communication is defeated, as the essential feedback process is absent.