

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

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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	16

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

- 1. Which of the following suffixes indicates a surgical procedure of making an opening?**
 - A. -phagia**
 - B. -otomy**
 - C. -desis**
 - D. -stasis**
- 2. Which term means 'stopping' in medical terminology?**
 - A. -stasis**
 - B. -osis**
 - C. -itis**
 - D. -plegia**
- 3. True or False: Medical assistants may perform finger sticks.**
 - A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Only if trained**
 - D. Only in urgent care settings**
- 4. The lungs are found in which of the following body cavities?**
 - A. Abdominal**
 - B. Thoracic**
 - C. Cranial**
 - D. Pelvic**
- 5. True or False: Recommending a course of treatment for a patient is within the scope of practice of a medical assistant.**
 - A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Only with physician approval**
 - D. Only if under training**

- 6. Which best describes a self-supporting minor living independently?**
- A. Dependent**
 - B. Emancipated minor**
 - C. Legally responsible**
 - D. Guardian**
- 7. What is the meaning of the suffix "-itis"?**
- A. Condition**
 - B. Inflammation**
 - C. Abnormal growth**
 - D. Removal**
- 8. What does the suffix "-itis" specifically indicate?**
- A. Incision**
 - B. Blood condition**
 - C. Tumor**
 - D. Inflammation**
- 9. True or False: If directed, a medical assistant may apply an orthopedic splint.**
- A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Only if certified**
 - D. Only in emergencies**
- 10. How is the condition "pharyngitis" correctly spelled?**
- A. Pharengytis**
 - B. Pharengitis**
 - C. Pharyngytis**
 - D. Pharyngitis**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following suffixes indicates a surgical procedure of making an opening?

- A. -phagia
- B. -otomy**
- C. -desis
- D. -stasis

The suffix that indicates a surgical procedure of making an opening is indeed "-otomy." This suffix is derived from the Greek word "tomia," meaning "to cut." In medical terminology, it refers to the act of making an incision or creating an opening into a hollow organ or cavity. For instance, "gastrostomy" involves creating an opening into the stomach. To provide some context, the other suffixes serve different purposes in medical terminology. For example, "-phagia" relates to eating or swallowing, as seen in "dysphagia," which refers to difficulty swallowing. The suffix "-desis" indicates surgical fusion or binding, often used in contexts like "arthrodesis," which is the fusion of a joint. Lastly, "-stasis" refers to stability or stopping, commonly associated with conditions that involve the cessation of flow, such as "hemostasis," which pertains to the stopping of bleeding. Understanding these distinctions highlights why "-otomy" is the correct choice for indicating a surgical procedure that creates an opening.

2. Which term means 'stopping' in medical terminology?

- A. -stasis**
- B. -osis
- C. -itis
- D. -plegia

The term that means 'stopping' in medical terminology is typically represented by the suffix "-stasis." This suffix is derived from the Greek word "stasis," which means a state of standing still or a cessation of movement. In a medical context, it is often used to describe conditions where normal function or flow is halted. For example, "homeostasis" refers to the body's ability to maintain stable internal conditions, and "venostasis" refers to the slowing or stopping of blood flow in the veins. The other terms, while relevant in medical terminology, do not convey the meaning of 'stopping': - "-osis" refers to a condition, usually abnormal, and is often used in the context of diseases or disorders. - "-itis" indicates inflammation of a specific area, such as "arthritis" (inflammation of the joints). - "-plegia" denotes paralysis or a loss of movement, often used in terms like "quadriplegia" (paralysis of all four limbs). Thus, "-stasis" is specifically associated with the concept of stopping, making it the correct answer in this case.

3. True or False: Medical assistants may perform finger sticks.

A. True

B. False

C. Only if trained

D. Only in urgent care settings

Medical assistants are indeed permitted to perform finger sticks, making the statement true. This procedure is typically performed to obtain blood samples for various tests, such as glucose or hemoglobin testing. It falls within the scope of practice for medical assistants, provided they have received the appropriate training and demonstrated competency in this skill. Furthermore, it is essential to note that while training is critical, the regulation surrounding these practices can vary by state. In California, medical assistants are allowed to perform finger sticks as part of their duties under supervision. Thus, as long as they are trained and working within their scope, they can efficiently and safely carry out such procedures. Other options suggest limitations or conditions that do not apply universally across settings, such as only in urgent care or requiring certification to perform the task. However, as long as the medical assistants are competent and are under the supervision of a licensed healthcare provider, they can perform finger sticks in various clinical settings, not limited to urgent care.

4. The lungs are found in which of the following body cavities?

A. Abdominal

B. Thoracic

C. Cranial

D. Pelvic

The lungs are located in the thoracic cavity, which is situated within the chest region of the body. This cavity is encased by the rib cage and separated from the lower abdominal cavity by the diaphragm, a vital muscle that aids in breathing. The thoracic cavity includes not only the lungs but also the heart and other structures such as the trachea and esophagus, making it critical for respiratory and circulatory functions. In contrast, the abdominal cavity contains organs related to digestion and excretion, such as the stomach, liver, and intestines. The cranial cavity houses the brain, and the pelvic cavity contains parts of the reproductive and urinary systems. Understanding these anatomical locations is fundamental for grasping how the body's systems interact and are organized within their respective cavities.

5. True or False: Recommending a course of treatment for a patient is within the scope of practice of a medical assistant.

A. True

B. False

C. Only with physician approval

D. Only if under training

Recommending a course of treatment for a patient is not within the scope of practice of a medical assistant. Medical assistants are trained to perform various administrative and clinical tasks, such as taking vital signs, assisting with examinations, and handling patient records; however, making treatment recommendations or diagnoses falls outside their professional boundaries. This responsibility is reserved for licensed healthcare providers, such as physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants, who have the necessary training and authority to evaluate a patient's condition and propose treatment plans. While there may be situations where medical assistants can provide general health information or reminders about follow-up care under a healthcare provider's guidance, explicitly recommending a treatment course requires specialized knowledge and licensure that medical assistants do not possess. Consideration of patient conditions and treatment options should always be initiated and directed by qualified healthcare professionals to ensure safety and effectiveness in patient care.

6. Which best describes a self-supporting minor living independently?

A. Dependent

B. Emancipated minor

C. Legally responsible

D. Guardian

A self-supporting minor living independently is best described as an emancipated minor. This term refers to a legal status in which a minor, typically aged 14 or older, can make their own decisions regarding their health, education, and finances, without the need for parental consent or supervision. Emancipation allows minors to live independently from their parents or guardians, sign contracts, and take full responsibility for their own welfare. In contrast, being dependent implies that the minor relies on their parents or guardians for financial or personal support, which does not align with the concept of living independently. Legally responsible could refer to various contexts but does not specifically define a minor's status as independent from parental control. A guardian, on the other hand, refers to an adult who is legally appointed to care for a minor, which is the opposite of the self-sufficiency implied by emancipation.

7. 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.

8. What does the suffix "-itis" specifically indicate?

- A. Incision
- B. Blood condition
- C. Tumor
- D. Inflammation**

The suffix "-itis" specifically indicates inflammation. This is a common suffix used in medical terminology to describe a condition characterized by inflammation of a specific organ or tissue. For example, "appendicitis" refers to the inflammation of the appendix, while "bronchitis" refers to the inflammation of the bronchial tubes. In a broader context, understanding the meaning of suffixes like "-itis" can greatly assist medical assistants and healthcare professionals in accurately interpreting medical terms. Recognizing that a term ending with "-itis" points to an inflammatory condition can help in identifying the nature of a patient's ailment and in communicating effectively with other healthcare team members.

9. True or False: If directed, a medical assistant may apply an orthopedic splint.

A. True

B. False

C. Only if certified

D. Only in emergencies

The correct answer hinges on the scope of practice for medical assistants, which varies by state and context. In many states, including California, applying orthopedic splints generally falls outside the typical duties of a medical assistant unless they are specifically trained and authorized to do so. While a medical assistant may have extensive training in various aspects of patient care, the application of medical devices like orthopedic splints usually requires additional certification or training beyond the standard medical assisting curriculum. Options that suggest other conditions for applying splints, such as certification or emergency situations, recognize that while specific circumstances may allow for certain procedures to be performed, they generally emphasize a higher standard of training or urgency. Therefore, the statement that a medical assistant may apply an orthopedic splint, without any limitation, is incorrect, supporting the answer that it is false. In summary, the reason for the assertion being false is based on the regulatory framework that dictates specific medical procedures, including the application of splints, which are typically reserved for licensed healthcare professionals to ensure patient safety and proper care protocols.

10. How is the condition "pharyngitis" correctly spelled?

A. Pharengytis

B. Pharengitis

C. Pharyngytis

D. Pharyngitis

The correct spelling of "pharyngitis" is significant because it refers to the inflammation of the pharynx, which can manifest in symptoms like sore throat and difficulty swallowing. The term derives from its Greek roots, where "pharynx" refers to the throat area, and the suffix "-itis" indicates inflammation. Correct spelling is essential in medical settings, as miscommunication or misunderstanding can lead to improper diagnosis or treatment. In this case, D stands out as the accurate spelling, ensuring that professionals understand exactly what condition is being referred to. The incorrect spellings presented in the other options involve variations that deviate from the recognized medical terminology, which can confuse both healthcare providers and patients if used in documentation or communication.

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://ccbma.examzify.com>

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