

CANADA PHARMACY TECHNICIAN PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

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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 factor is NOT typically considered when adding medications to a formulary?**
 - A. Drug cost
 - B. Side effects
 - C. Brand popularity
 - D. Alternatives not available in the formulary
- 2. Which medication could be dangerous for a patient with asthma?**
 - A. Antihistamines
 - B. Corticosteroids
 - C. Beta-blockers
 - D. Bronchodilators
- 3. What is the age limit recommended by the FDA for children not to use OTC cough and cold products?**
 - A. 2 years
 - B. 4 years
 - C. 6 years
 - D. 8 years
- 4. Which gland in the body is primarily responsible for the production of insulin?**
 - A. Thyroid gland
 - B. Adrenal gland
 - C. Pancreas
 - D. Pituitary gland
- 5. Which statement accurately describes the role of a pharmacy technician in drug supply management?**
 - A. The pharmacy technician is responsible for ordering drugs directly
 - B. The pharmacy technician records sales and customer interactions
 - C. The pharmacy technician assists with verifying drug orders and managing inventory
 - D. The pharmacy technician is primarily focused on patient counseling

- 6. Which term describes a drug-drug interaction where the combination of two drugs produces a more intense effect?**
- A. Antagonism
 - B. Synergism
 - C. Potentiation
 - D. Dermatology
- 7. What is a key concern for using antibiotics in conjunction with oral contraceptives?**
- A. Increase in side effects
 - B. Altered metabolism of contraceptives
 - C. Insufficient efficacy of antibiotics
 - D. Reduced effectiveness of contraceptives
- 8. What should be done with items such as hats and combs when dealing with head lice?**
- A. They should be thrown away
 - B. They must be cleaned with hot, soapy water
 - C. They need to be kept separate permanently
 - D. They should only be rinsed with cold water
- 9. Which agent used for the treatment of GERD has a high risk of drug interactions?**
- A. Omeprazole (Prilosec)
 - B. Ranitidine (Zantac)
 - C. Cimetidine (Tagamet)
 - D. Lansoprazole (Prevacid)
- 10. What characterizes a corrosive hazardous waste?**
- A. A pH below 2 or above 12.5
 - B. A pH equal to 7
 - C. An inability to conduct electricity
 - D. A pH between 4 and 10

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which factor is NOT typically considered when adding medications to a formulary?

- A. Drug cost
- B. Side effects
- C. Brand popularity**
- D. Alternatives not available in the formulary

When determining which medications to include in a formulary, several key factors are taken into account to ensure patient safety, efficacy, and cost-effectiveness. Brand popularity is not typically one of these considerations. The primary focus for adding medications usually revolves around their therapeutic effectiveness, potential side effects, and whether equivalent alternatives are available. Drug cost is an essential factor since formulary decisions can directly impact the overall healthcare budget and patient access to necessary medications. Side effects are also critically evaluated to minimize risks and ensure that prescriptions do not adversely affect patient health. Additionally, if alternative medications are not available in the formulary, this might lead to decisions regarding the addition of a new drug to ensure that patients have access to effective treatments. Since brand popularity does not inherently correlate with safety, efficacy, or cost, it is not a relevant factor in formulary decision-making.

2. Which medication could be dangerous for a patient with asthma?

- A. Antihistamines
- B. Corticosteroids
- C. Beta-blockers**
- D. Bronchodilators

The selection of beta-blockers as a medication that could be dangerous for a patient with asthma is based on how this class of drugs works in the body. Beta-blockers primarily work by blocking beta-adrenergic receptors, which can lead to bronchoconstriction in individuals with asthma. This is because beta-2 receptors, which are responsible for dilating the bronchial passages, may also be affected by beta-blockers, especially non-selective ones that block both beta-1 and beta-2 receptors. For patients with asthma, maintaining open airways is crucial for their respiratory health. Medications that may constrict airways or exacerbate bronchial hyperreactivity can lead to increased symptoms and potentially life-threatening asthma exacerbations. In contrast, antihistamines are often used to alleviate allergy symptoms and do not have a significant negative impact on asthma control. Corticosteroids are commonly used to reduce inflammation in the airways and are a mainstay treatment for managing asthma. Bronchodilators are medications specifically designed to relax the muscles around the airways, making them essential for treating asthma symptoms. Thus, while other options play supportive or therapeutic roles in asthma management, beta-blockers pose a risk for exacerbating the condition.

3. What is the age limit recommended by the FDA for children not to use OTC cough and cold products?

- A. 2 years**
- B. 4 years
- C. 6 years
- D. 8 years

The recommended age limit by the FDA for children not to use over-the-counter (OTC) cough and cold products is indeed set at 2 years. This guideline is based on concerns regarding the safety and effectiveness of these medications in young children. Research has indicated that these products can pose risks of serious side effects in young patients, such as respiratory complications and other adverse effects that may not be easily monitored or managed. For children under the age of 2, the use of these medications is not advised, as their developing systems may react differently compared to older children and adults. It is worth noting that many other health organizations and pediatric specialists also endorse this age limit due to similar safety concerns. The other age options suggested—4 years, 6 years, and 8 years—do not align with the FDA's specific recommendations and may imply that it is safe to use such products in younger children, which is not supported by current research and guidelines. This highlights the importance of being aware of the proper age recommendations regarding medication usage in pediatric populations to ensure their safety and well-being.

4. Which gland in the body is primarily responsible for the production of insulin?

- A. Thyroid gland
- B. Adrenal gland
- C. Pancreas**
- D. Pituitary gland

The pancreas is the gland in the body primarily responsible for the production of insulin. Insulin is a vital hormone that regulates blood glucose levels, allowing the body to utilize sugar from carbohydrates for energy or store it for future use. The pancreas contains specialized cells known as beta cells, which produce and secrete insulin in response to rising blood glucose levels, such as after meals. Understanding the role of the pancreas in insulin production is critical, especially in the context of diabetes, where insulin regulation becomes impaired. In contrast, the other glands listed have different primary functions. The thyroid gland is mainly involved in regulating metabolism and energy production; the adrenal gland produces hormones related to stress response and metabolism; and the pituitary gland controls various hormonal functions related to growth, reproduction, and metabolism but does not produce insulin. Thus, the pancreas stands out as the central organ for insulin production.

5. Which statement accurately describes the role of a pharmacy technician in drug supply management?

- A. The pharmacy technician is responsible for ordering drugs directly
- B. The pharmacy technician records sales and customer interactions
- C. The pharmacy technician assists with verifying drug orders and managing inventory**
- D. The pharmacy technician is primarily focused on patient counseling

The role of a pharmacy technician in drug supply management primarily involves assisting with verifying drug orders and managing inventory. This includes ensuring that the right medications are available in the pharmacy, checking for discrepancies in orders, and maintaining accurate inventory levels. By actively participating in these processes, pharmacy technicians help ensure that the pharmacy operates efficiently and that patients receive the medications they need when they need them. Drug supply management is a critical aspect of pharmacy operations, as it ensures that medications are stored, tracked, and dispensed correctly. This involves routine tasks such as checking expiration dates, organizing stock, and identifying when to reorder medications to prevent shortages. By engaging in these activities, pharmacy technicians play a vital role in the safe and effective distribution of pharmaceuticals in a healthcare setting. The other roles described do not encompass the broader scope of drug supply management as effectively. Ordering drugs directly is typically the responsibility of a pharmacist or pharmacy manager, recording sales mainly pertains to administrative roles, and patient counseling is primarily conducted by pharmacists. Thus, the accurate description of a pharmacy technician's role in this context focuses on their contribution to verifying and managing drug supplies and inventory.

6. Which term describes a drug-drug interaction where the combination of two drugs produces a more intense effect?

- A. Antagonism
- B. Synergism**
- C. Potentiation
- D. Dermatology

The term that describes a drug-drug interaction where the combination of two drugs leads to a more intense or enhanced effect is synergism. In the context of pharmacology, synergism occurs when the combined effect of two drugs is greater than the sum of their individual effects. This can happen when the mechanisms of action of the two drugs complement each other in such a way that they augment each other's therapeutic effect. For instance, if Drug A has a certain level of efficacy on its own, and Drug B, when used in conjunction with Drug A, amplifies the effect, the result is a synergistic interaction. This principle is vital in medication management, especially when optimizing patient treatment regimens for enhanced efficacy. The other terms indicate different interactions; antagonism refers to when one drug reduces or counteracts the effect of another, while potentiation involves one drug enhancing the effect of another without having a similar effect on its own. Dermatology, on the other hand, is related to the study of skin conditions and is not relevant in the context of drug interactions.

7. What is a key concern for using antibiotics in conjunction with oral contraceptives?

- A. Increase in side effects
- B. Altered metabolism of contraceptives
- C. Insufficient efficacy of antibiotics
- D. Reduced effectiveness of contraceptives**

The key concern when using antibiotics in conjunction with oral contraceptives revolves around the possibility of reduced effectiveness of contraceptives. Certain antibiotics may interfere with the metabolism of oral contraceptives, leading to a decrease in their effectiveness. This occurs because some antibiotics can affect the gut flora or potentially alter the hepatic metabolism of the contraceptive hormones, which may increase the risk of breakthrough ovulation and unintended pregnancy. Research indicates that while most antibiotics do not significantly affect the effectiveness of hormonal contraceptives, specific ones, like rifampin and rifabutin, are known to have clinically significant interactions. Therefore, it's vital for patients to be informed about this risk when prescribed antibiotics, and additional contraceptive methods may be recommended during and after the antibiotic course to ensure consistent contraception.

8. What should be done with items such as hats and combs when dealing with head lice?

- A. They should be thrown away
- B. They must be cleaned with hot, soapy water**
- C. They need to be kept separate permanently
- D. They should only be rinsed with cold water

When dealing with head lice, it's essential to understand that lice can survive for a short time off the human scalp, and they can be present on personal items like hats, combs, and brushes. The correct course of action is to clean these items thoroughly using hot, soapy water. This process helps to kill any lice or nits (lice eggs) that may be present. Using hot, soapy water is effective because the temperature of the water is critical in destroying the lice, while soap helps to break down oils and debris that may be adhering to the items. It's also advisable to avoid using cold water, as it is not effective in eliminating lice. Simply rinsing items in cold water does not offer sufficient treatment to ensure that any lice or eggs are removed. Moreover, permanently separating items is not necessary and may cause unnecessary waste. While throwing away items can be a method if they are heavily infested and cannot be cleaned effectively, it is generally more practical and environmentally friendly to clean them. Therefore, ensuring that hats and combs are appropriately cleaned with hot, soapy water is the most effective and responsible approach to managing head lice.

9. Which agent used for the treatment of GERD has a high risk of drug interactions?

- A. Omeprazole (Prilosec)
- B. Ranitidine (Zantac)
- C. Cimetidine (Tagamet)**
- D. Lansoprazole (Prevacid)

Cimetidine (Tagamet) is associated with a high risk of drug interactions primarily due to its ability to inhibit several cytochrome P450 enzymes in the liver. This inhibition can lead to altered metabolism of many other medications, thereby increasing the serum levels of these drugs and potentially causing toxicity. Because cimetidine competes with other medications for metabolism, it can significantly affect the pharmacokinetics of numerous drugs that are metabolized by the same liver enzymes. In contrast, omeprazole, ranitidine, and lansoprazole tend to have a lower risk of significant drug interactions. Omeprazole and lansoprazole are proton pump inhibitors that also have some potential to interact with other drugs, but less so than cimetidine. Ranitidine is an H₂ receptor antagonist and generally poses an even lower risk for drug interactions. Therefore, cimetidine stands out among these options for its notable propensity to interact with a wide variety of medications, making it important for healthcare providers to monitor for potential drug-drug interactions when patients are prescribed this agent.

10. What characterizes a corrosive hazardous waste?

- A. A pH below 2 or above 12.5**
- B. A pH equal to 7
- C. An inability to conduct electricity
- D. A pH between 4 and 10

The characteristic that defines corrosive hazardous waste is its potential to cause damage through chemical interactions, particularly with materials like skin or metal. A substance is classified as corrosive if it has a pH below 2 or above 12.5. This is due to the fact that highly acidic or highly alkaline solutions can corrode or degrade materials significantly. The range of pH values indicates the extreme chemical nature of such substances, highlighting their hazardous properties. In contrast, a pH equal to 7 indicates a neutral solution, which does not display corrosive characteristics. Options suggesting pH levels between 4 and 10 do not align with the criteria for corrosivity, as neither of these ranges indicates a strong acid or base. An inability to conduct electricity is not a defining characteristic of corrosive materials; rather, it does not provide information about the potential to cause chemical damage. Thus, the option indicating the extremes of pH effectively captures the definition of corrosive hazardous waste.

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://canadapharmtech.examzify.com>

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

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