

Certification of Pharmacy Technicians (ExCPT) Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What does PBM stand for in the context of drug benefit programs?**
 - A. Prescription Benefit Management**
 - B. Program Benefit Management**
 - C. Pharmaceutical Benefit Management**
 - D. Pharmacy Benefit Managers**
- 2. What is the significance of the “prescription only” status of certain medications?**
 - A. It allows anyone to buy the medication without restrictions**
 - B. It indicates that a medication requires authorization from a healthcare provider**
 - C. It means the medication is only available in hospitals**
 - D. It designates the medication as over-the-counter**
- 3. To whom should consent for a prescription transfer be communicated?**
 - A. Only to the pharmacy staff member transferring the prescription**
 - B. To the patient and the original pharmacy**
 - C. Only to the original prescribing doctor**
 - D. To the patient's insurance provider**
- 4. A "Rejected Claim" with "Invalid Person Code" likely indicates what?**
 - A. The patient is on Medicare**
 - B. The patient has a mail order program**
 - C. The person code does not match the birth date and/or sex in the insurer's system**
 - D. The patient is on Medicaid**
- 5. OSHA required notices for hazardous substances that provide hazard, handling, clean-up, and first aid information are called?**
 - A. MAC**
 - B. SDS**
 - C. MEC**
 - D. HCFA-1500**

- 6. What is essential for consistent and safe compounding of medications?**
- A. Following patient preferences**
 - B. Using generic substitutions**
 - C. Adhering to the formulary guidelines**
 - D. Consulting with insurance companies**
- 7. Federal law requires pharmacies to keep which copy of the DEA Form 222?**
- A. A. Copy 1**
 - B. B. Copy 2**
 - C. C. Copy 3**
 - D. D. Copy 4**
- 8. What percentage of hydrocortisone is contained in a cream that requires 1,200 mg for 60 g?**
- A. 1%**
 - B. 2%**
 - C. 3%**
 - D. 4%**
- 9. What should a pharmacy technician do if they notice that medication has expired?**
- A. Continue to dispense it if the prescriber authorizes**
 - B. Return it to the wholesaler for a refund**
 - C. Dispose of it per facility protocol**
 - D. Use it for personal use**
- 10. What is the primary role of a pharmacy technician?**
- A. To conduct health screenings for patients**
 - B. To assist pharmacists in preparing and dispensing medications**
 - C. To manage pharmacy finances and billing**
 - D. To perform diagnostic tests in the pharmacy**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does PBM stand for in the context of drug benefit programs?

- A. Prescription Benefit Management**
- B. Program Benefit Management**
- C. Pharmaceutical Benefit Management**
- D. Pharmacy Benefit Managers**

In the context of drug benefit programs, PBM refers to Pharmacy Benefit Managers. These entities play a crucial role in the healthcare system by managing prescription drug benefits on behalf of health insurers, Medicare Part D drug plans, and large employers. Their primary functions include negotiating prices with manufacturers, creating formulary lists (which determine which drugs are covered), and managing the overall utilization of medications. Pharmacy Benefit Managers streamline the process of obtaining medications for patients while simultaneously working to control costs for payers. By leveraging their purchasing power, PBMs can negotiate lower drug prices, which helps to reduce overall expenses associated with prescription medications for both the payers and the patients. While the other options suggest related terms or concepts, none accurately capture the full meaning of PBM in the context of drug benefit programs. The term specifically emphasizes the management aspect of pharmacy benefits through specialized organizations designed to handle these complex processes.

2. What is the significance of the “prescription only” status of certain medications?

- A. It allows anyone to buy the medication without restrictions**
- B. It indicates that a medication requires authorization from a healthcare provider**
- C. It means the medication is only available in hospitals**
- D. It designates the medication as over-the-counter**

The significance of the “prescription only” status of certain medications is that it indicates that a medication requires authorization from a healthcare provider. This status is implemented to ensure that medications with potential risks or complex dosing requirements are prescribed by qualified healthcare professionals who can evaluate the patient’s condition, medical history, and potential interactions with other medications. Medications classified as “prescription only” often have specific therapeutic indications or risk profiles that necessitate professional oversight. This helps to prevent misuse, promotes safe and effective use, and ensures that patients receive the appropriate treatment for their conditions. Healthcare providers can tailor the use of these medications based on individual patient needs, contributing to better health outcomes. The other options do not accurately reflect the meaning associated with a “prescription only” status. For instance, the idea that anyone can buy the medication without restrictions directly contradicts the concept of needing a prescription. Suggesting that these medications are limited to hospitals does not encompass the broader range of healthcare settings where prescriptions are utilized. Lastly, designating a medication as over-the-counter is the opposite of the prescription-only classification; over-the-counter medications are available to consumers without a prescription.

3. To whom should consent for a prescription transfer be communicated?

A. Only to the pharmacy staff member transferring the prescription

B. To the patient and the original pharmacy

C. Only to the original prescribing doctor

D. To the patient's insurance provider

Consent for a prescription transfer must be communicated to both the patient and the original pharmacy. This is crucial because the patient's consent is necessary to ensure they are aware of and agree to the transfer of their prescription from one pharmacy to another. Communication with the original pharmacy is equally important as it formally informs them of the patient's intention to transfer the prescription, allowing them to validate the request and execute the transfer process properly. This collaboration helps maintain the integrity of the prescription transfer, ensures that the patient's medication management is seamless, and avoids any confusion regarding the status of the prescription. These factors contribute to a better patient experience and help the pharmacy staff manage the prescription effectively.

4. A "Rejected Claim" with "Invalid Person Code" likely indicates what?

A. The patient is on Medicare

B. The patient has a mail order program

C. The person code does not match the birth date and/or sex in the insurer's system

D. The patient is on Medicaid

A "Rejected Claim" with "Invalid Person Code" typically indicates that there is a mismatch between the information provided on the claim and the records held by the insurer. In this case, the person code is a specific identifier used to verify a patient's identity and eligibility for coverage. If the code does not align with the birth date and/or sex recorded in the insurer's system, the claim will be rejected. This situation underscores the importance of maintaining accurate and updated patient records, as any discrepancies can lead to delays in processing claims, further complicating patient care. The invalid person code reflects issues in verification, which commonly arise during the billing process when the submitted information does not correspond with what the insurance provider has on file for that individual. This context helps clarify why accuracy in data entry and communication with insurers is critical for pharmacy technicians as they navigate insurance claims.

5. OSHA required notices for hazardous substances that provide hazard, handling, clean-up, and first aid information are called?

A. MAC

B. SDS

C. MEC

D. HCFA-1500

Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are crucial documents that provide comprehensive information about hazardous substances. They include essential details such as the hazards associated with a substance, instructions for safe handling and use, guidelines for clean-up in case of a spill, and first aid measures in case of exposure. The OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) mandates that employers maintain and make accessible SDS for all hazardous chemicals used in the workplace to ensure safety and compliance. The other options, while relevant to different contexts, do not serve the same purpose. The MAC (Maximum Allowable Concentration) refers to the highest level of a hazardous substance that is permitted in the air, but it doesn't provide the detailed information found in an SDS. MEC (Minimum Essential Coverage) pertains to health insurance requirements under the Affordable Care Act, and HCFA-1500 is a form used for health insurance claims, unrelated to hazardous substances. Thus, Safety Data Sheets stand out as the correct answer for the required notices addressing hazardous substances.

6. What is essential for consistent and safe compounding of medications?

A. Following patient preferences

B. Using generic substitutions

C. Adhering to the formulary guidelines

D. Consulting with insurance companies

Adhering to the formulary guidelines is crucial for the consistent and safe compounding of medications. Formulary guidelines provide a standardized framework that outlines specific protocols, procedures, and accepted formulations. These guidelines ensure that medications are compounded using the correct ingredients, at the proper dosages, and following the established techniques necessary to maintain quality and efficacy. By adhering to these guidelines, pharmacy technicians can minimize variability, reduce the risk of errors, and ensure compliance with regulatory standards. Formulary guidelines also help in establishing the therapeutic equivalence of compounded medications and maintain a focus on patient safety. This is particularly important in compounding, where the precision of measurements and the choice of ingredients directly impact the final product's safety and effectiveness. The adherence to such standards helps to ensure that compounded medications meet both clinical needs and safety requirements, thereby supporting the overall goal of effective patient care.

7. Federal law requires pharmacies to keep which copy of the DEA Form 222?

- A. A. Copy 1**
- B. B. Copy 2**
- C. C. Copy 3**
- D. D. Copy 4**

The correct choice is based on the requirement that pharmacies must retain a specific copy of the DEA Form 222 for their records. In the context of purchasing controlled substances, the DEA Form 222 is designed to facilitate the transfer of these substances between parties and is crucial for maintaining compliance with federal regulations. Pharmacies must keep Copy 3 of the DEA Form 222, which serves as the recipient's record of the order placed. This copy remains in the pharmacy's files as evidence of the medications ordered and received, and it must be maintained for a minimum of two years, as specified by federal law. This practice is essential for tracking the flow of controlled substances and ensuring accountability within the pharmacy. Other copies of the form serve different purposes—Copy 1 goes to the supplier, Copy 2 is sent to the DEA, and there is no Copy 4 provided in the standard process. The specific retention of Copy 3 helps ensure pharmacies adhere to regulatory requirements and supports the accurate inventory and auditing of controlled substances.

8. What percentage of hydrocortisone is contained in a cream that requires 1,200 mg for 60 g?

- A. 1%**
- B. 2%**
- C. 3%**
- D. 4%**

To find the percentage of hydrocortisone in the cream, you can use the formula for percentage concentration, which is the mass of the solute divided by the total mass of the solution, multiplied by 100. In this case, the solute is hydrocortisone, with a mass of 1,200 mg, and the total mass of the cream is 60 g (which can be converted to milligrams for consistency; 60 g = 60,000 mg). Using the formula, the concentration can be calculated as follows:
$$\text{Percentage} = \left(\frac{\text{Mass of hydrocortisone}}{\text{Total mass of cream}} \right) \times 100$$
 Substituting in the values:
$$\text{Percentage} = \left(\frac{1,200 \text{ mg}}{60,000 \text{ mg}} \right) \times 100 = \left(\frac{1,200}{60,000} \right) \times 100 = 2\%$$
 Therefore, the correct answer, indicating that the cream contains 2% hydrocortisone, is

9. What should a pharmacy technician do if they notice that medication has expired?

- A. Continue to dispense it if the prescriber authorizes**
- B. Return it to the wholesaler for a refund**
- C. Dispose of it per facility protocol**
- D. Use it for personal use**

When a pharmacy technician notices that medication has expired, the correct course of action is to dispose of it per facility protocol. Medication expiration dates are established to guarantee safety and potency; using or dispensing expired medications can pose significant risks to patients. Facility protocols are in place to ensure that expired medications are removed safely and according to regulations, which often involve specific disposal methods to prevent potential harm to people and the environment. Continuing to dispense expired medication, even with prescriber authorization, is risky and generally against standard practice, as the efficacy and safety of the drug cannot be guaranteed past its expiration date. Returning expired medication for a refund may not be feasible, as many wholesalers do not accept returns of expired products. Using expired medication for personal use is strongly discouraged due to health risks associated with taking medications that may have degraded in quality or safety. Thus, following established disposal protocols is the appropriate action for pharmacy technicians in this situation.

10. What is the primary role of a pharmacy technician?

- A. To conduct health screenings for patients**
- B. To assist pharmacists in preparing and dispensing medications**
- C. To manage pharmacy finances and billing**
- D. To perform diagnostic tests in the pharmacy**

The primary role of a pharmacy technician is to assist pharmacists in preparing and dispensing medications. This involves a variety of tasks that support the pharmacist's responsibilities, such as measuring, mixing, counting, packaging, and labeling medications accurately. Pharmacy technicians help ensure that prescriptions are filled correctly and efficiently, following all relevant laws and regulations. They may also handle customer interactions, including answering questions about medications, which helps to ensure that patients receive accurate information and support regarding their prescriptions. This foundational support is critical to maintaining the flow of pharmacy operations and ensuring patient safety. In contrast, the other roles listed do not primarily fall under the responsibilities of a pharmacy technician. Conducting health screenings and performing diagnostic tests are typically clinical functions carried out by licensed health care professionals. Managing pharmacy finances and billing, while important, usually falls under the purview of administrative personnel or a pharmacist, not the technician's primary scope of work. Thus, assisting pharmacists in medication-related tasks encapsulates the core duties of a pharmacy technician.