

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

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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!

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Questions

- 1. Which of the following is a common side effect of antihistamines?**
 - A. A. Diarrhea**
 - B. B. Drowsiness**
 - C. C. Insomnia**
 - D. D. Weight loss**
- 2. What type of solution is Lactated Ringer's?**
 - A. Acidic**
 - B. Hypertonic**
 - C. Hypotonic**
 - D. Isotonic**
- 3. Which DEA schedule do exempt narcotics belong to?**
 - A. II**
 - B. III**
 - C. IV**
 - D. V**
- 4. Why is continuing education important for pharmacy technicians?**
 - A. To avoid legal issues**
 - B. To stay updated on advancements and best practices**
 - C. To comply with store policies**
 - D. To enhance customer service only**
- 5. How long should a laminar airflow workstation run after being turned off between aseptic processing sessions before next use?**
 - A. Does not matter**
 - B. At least 15 minutes**
 - C. At least 30 minutes**
 - D. It should never be turned off**

- 6. Which medication is used for topical pain relief?**
- A. Ibuprofen**
 - B. Lidocaine**
 - C. Cetirizine**
 - D. Amoxicillin**
- 7. All of the following duties may be performed by a pharmacy technician EXCEPT:**
- A. Requesting PHI from a patient such as date of birth, address, allergy, and insurance information**
 - B. Selecting an OTC product for a patient**
 - C. Inputting and updating patient information in the computer**
 - D. Placing the medication in a vial and attaching the prescription label to it**
- 8. If the dose of liquid amoxicillin for a child is one and one-half teaspoonful three times a day for 10 days, what is the volume needed to fill the prescription?**
- A. 100 mL**
 - B. 150 mL**
 - C. 200 mL**
 - D. 225 mL**
- 9. What is the role of pharmacy technicians in drug utilization reviews?**
- A. They prescribe medications directly**
 - B. They assist pharmacists in identifying medication-related problems**
 - C. They manage inventory systems**
 - D. They educate patients about over-the-counter drugs**
- 10. Isotretinoin is associated with:**
- A. iPLEDGE**
 - B. RevAssist**
 - C. STEPS**
 - D. TOUCH**

Answers

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

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Explanations

1. Which of the following is a common side effect of antihistamines?

- A. A. Diarrhea**
- B. B. Drowsiness**
- C. C. Insomnia**
- D. D. Weight loss**

Drowsiness is a well-known side effect of antihistamines, particularly first-generation antihistamines. These medications, which include diphenhydramine and chlorpheniramine, cross the blood-brain barrier and block histamine receptors in the central nervous system, leading to sedative effects. This is often utilized in products meant to aid sleep or relieve allergy symptoms that may disrupt sleep, but can be a cause for concern when driving or operating machinery. Other alternatives such as diarrhea, insomnia, and weight loss are not typically associated with antihistamines. While some antihistamines may have varying side effects, drowsiness remains the hallmark effect that patients and healthcare providers must monitor for, especially in populations such as the elderly or those who are on multiple medications. Understanding this side effect is crucial for safe and effective patient care, particularly in managing allergies while avoiding complications related to sedation.

2. What type of solution is Lactated Ringer's?

- A. Acidic**
- B. Hypertonic**
- C. Hypotonic**
- D. Isotonic**

Lactated Ringer's solution is classified as an isotonic solution. This means that it has a similar osmolarity to that of the bodily fluids and cells, which helps to maintain cell integrity and fluid balance without causing cells to swell or shrink. Isotonic solutions are often used in medical settings for fluid replacement and to correct electrolyte imbalances. Lactated Ringer's solution contains a balanced mixture of electrolytes that closely resembles the composition of plasma, making it effective for intravenous rehydration. Its isotonic property is crucial in preventing osmotic pressure changes that can adversely affect red blood cells and other cellular components. This characteristic of being isotonic ensures that when administered, it will effectively distribute the fluids into the extracellular space while maintaining the osmotic balance necessary for physiological functions.

3. Which DEA schedule do exempt narcotics belong to?

- A. II
- B. III
- C. IV
- D. V**

Exempt narcotics are classified in Schedule V under the Controlled Substances Act. This schedule includes substances that have a lower potential for abuse compared to substances in Schedules I through IV, and they typically can be dispensed without a prescription, though there are specific regulations regarding their sale. Exempt narcotics often contain certain amounts of codeine or other narcotics combined with non-narcotic active ingredients, which further reduces their potential for misuse. Because of their lower potential for abuse, they are regulated less stringently than higher schedule drugs, which is a key characteristic of Schedule V. The other schedules, particularly II, III, and IV, contain substances that have varying degrees of potential for abuse and dependence, but they do not apply to exempt narcotics in the same way as Schedule V does. This classification is crucial for pharmacy technicians to understand in order to ensure proper handling and dispensing practices in compliance with legal regulations.

4. Why is continuing education important for pharmacy technicians?

- A. To avoid legal issues
- B. To stay updated on advancements and best practices**
- C. To comply with store policies
- D. To enhance customer service only

Continuing education is crucial for pharmacy technicians as it enables them to stay updated on advancements and best practices in the field of pharmacy. The landscape of healthcare and medication management is continually evolving due to new research, emerging therapies, and changes in regulations. By engaging in ongoing education, pharmacy technicians enhance their knowledge and skills, ensuring that they can effectively support pharmacists, provide accurate information to patients, and implement the latest standards of care. This commitment to lifelong learning contributes not only to personal career development but also ensures that technicians can contribute positively to patient outcomes and safety. By staying informed about new medications, drug interactions, and innovative techniques in pharmacy practice, they are better equipped to handle the complexities of modern pharmacy environments. While avoiding legal issues, complying with store policies, and improving customer service are relevant aspects of a pharmacy technician's role, the primary driving force behind the necessity for continuing education is the requirement to maintain competence and to embrace the latest developments in pharmacy practice.

5. How long should a laminar airflow workstation run after being turned off between aseptic processing sessions before next use?

- A. Does not matter**
- B. At least 15 minutes**
- C. At least 30 minutes**
- D. It should never be turned off**

A laminar airflow workstation is essential for maintaining a sterile environment during aseptic processing. When the workstation is turned off, it ceases to provide the necessary air filtration and sterile airflow. To ensure that the workspace is adequately cleared of any potential contaminants and that the air within the workstation has been fully refreshed, it is recommended that the workstation must run for at least 30 minutes after being turned off before the next use. This 30-minute period allows the system to stabilize, ensuring that the airflow reaches optimal levels and that any residual airborne contaminants are effectively filtered out. This practice is crucial for maintaining the integrity of the sterile environment necessary for preparing medications and working with sterile products. The other options are not safe practices for aseptic processing; turning the workstation off indefinitely would leave the area unsterile and potentially expose it to contamination, while shorter run times would not provide adequate time for the workstation to effectively filter the air.

6. Which medication is used for topical pain relief?

- A. Ibuprofen**
- B. Lidocaine**
- C. Cetirizine**
- D. Amoxicillin**

Lidocaine is a medication specifically designed for topical pain relief. It functions as a local anesthetic by blocking nerve signals in a targeted area, thereby reducing sensations of pain. This makes it particularly effective for conditions like localized pain, sunburn, minor burns, insect bites, or certain types of nerve pain when applied directly to the skin. Ibuprofen, while it is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) that can relieve pain, is typically administered orally or intravenously rather than topically. Cetirizine is an antihistamine used primarily for allergy relief and does not have properties for pain relief. Amoxicillin is an antibiotic used to treat bacterial infections and is not indicated for pain management. Thus, Lidocaine stands out as the appropriate choice for topical pain relief.

7. All of the following duties may be performed by a pharmacy technician EXCEPT:

- A. Requesting PHI from a patient such as date of birth, address, allergy, and insurance information**
- B. Selecting an OTC product for a patient**
- C. Inputting and updating patient information in the computer**
- D. Placing the medication in a vial and attaching the prescription label to it**

Selecting an over-the-counter (OTC) product for a patient involves professional judgment and an understanding of the patient's specific health needs, including potential interactions with other medications they may be taking. This task typically falls within the scope of practice for pharmacists, who are trained to assess a patient's health status and recommend appropriate medications. Pharmacy technicians, on the other hand, primarily assist pharmacists with tasks that do not require clinical assessment or professional discretion about medication selection. While they can provide information about OTC products, the recommendation or selection of these products is generally not considered a duty within their scope of practice. In contrast, requesting personal health information (PHI), inputting and updating patient information, and handling prescription medications are all tasks that pharmacy technicians are authorized to perform, supporting the workflow and operational needs of the pharmacy. These responsibilities do not involve the same level of professional assessment required for selecting an OTC product.

8. If the dose of liquid amoxicillin for a child is one and one-half teaspoonful three times a day for 10 days, what is the volume needed to fill the prescription?

- A. 100 mL**
- B. 150 mL**
- C. 200 mL**
- D. 225 mL**

To determine the total volume of liquid amoxicillin needed to fill the prescription, first calculate the total daily dose and then the total required over the entire treatment period. The prescription specifies one and one-half teaspoonfuls taken three times a day. One teaspoonful is approximately 5 mL, so one and one-half teaspoonfuls equals 7.5 mL. By taking this three times a day, the total daily dose becomes: $7.5 \text{ mL} \times 3 = 22.5 \text{ mL per day}$. Next, since the treatment lasts for 10 days, the total volume needed is: $22.5 \text{ mL/day} \times 10 \text{ days} = 225 \text{ mL}$. Thus, this calculation confirms that 225 mL is necessary to fulfill the prescription for the duration specified. This is why the correct answer is 225 mL, as it accurately reflects the total amount of medication the child requires based on the prescribed dosage and treatment duration.

9. What is the role of pharmacy technicians in drug utilization reviews?

- A. They prescribe medications directly**
- B. They assist pharmacists in identifying medication-related problems**
- C. They manage inventory systems**
- D. They educate patients about over-the-counter drugs**

Pharmacy technicians play a critical role in drug utilization reviews by assisting pharmacists in identifying medication-related problems. Their involvement typically includes gathering important patient information and ensuring that data is accurately documented, which helps pharmacists review medication regimens effectively. By flagging potential issues such as drug interactions, allergies, duplications, or contraindications, technicians enable pharmacists to make informed decisions regarding patient therapy. This teamwork enhances patient safety and optimizes medication use, making pharmacy technicians an integral part of the healthcare team. In the other options, prescribing medications directly is a responsibility reserved for licensed pharmacists and healthcare providers. Managing inventory systems is important but does not directly contribute to the patient safety focus of drug utilization reviews. Educating patients about over-the-counter drugs also falls outside the specific scope of their role in drug utilization reviews. Thus, assisting pharmacists in identifying medication-related problems is where pharmacy technicians provide vital support in ensuring safe and effective medication use.

10. Isotretinoin is associated with:

- A. iPLEDGE**
- B. RevAssist**
- C. STEPS**
- D. TOUCH**

Isotretinoin, a potent medication used primarily for severe acne, is associated with the iPLEDGE program. This is a risk management strategy aimed at preventing fetal exposure to isotretinoin due to its high teratogenic potential. The iPLEDGE program requires patients, providers, and pharmacies to comply with specific guidelines to ensure safe use of the medication. Participants must be registered in the iPLEDGE program to prescribe, dispense, or receive isotretinoin, which involves confirming patient status regarding pregnancy and adherence to effective contraception. This program is essential in mitigating the risks associated with isotretinoin and is closely monitored by the manufacturer and regulatory bodies. Other programs mentioned, such as RevAssist, STEPS, and TOUCH, are associated with different medications or treatments and do not pertain to isotretinoin. RevAssist is related to the medication Revlimid, which is used for certain types of cancer; STEPS is associated with the drug thalidomide; and TOUCH applies to pregnancy prevention in patients receiving elosulfase alfa or similar therapies. Thus, the correct association between isotretinoin and the iPLEDGE program highlights the importance of adherence to safety protocols in managing medications with significant

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://nha-certificationofpharmacytechnicians.examzify.com>

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