

# Certified Healthcare Constructor (CHC) Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

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- 1. What percentage of deaths from HAIs can be attributed to construction activities?**
  - A. 1% to 2%**
  - B. 3% to 4%**
  - C. 5% to 7%**
  - D. 8% to 10%**
- 2. Which code is most relevant to healthcare facility construction?**
  - A. Building Code Administration Code**
  - B. Uniform Building Code**
  - C. The Life Safety Code (NFPA 101)**
  - D. International Code Council Code**
- 3. Which building envelope material is the most expensive per square foot?**
  - A. Masonry**
  - B. Precast (tilt slab)**
  - C. Curtain wall**
  - D. Wood framing**
- 4. What is the key patient safety feature in an inpatient behavioral health unit?**
  - A. Fall prevention strategies**
  - B. Suicide prevention**
  - C. Medication management protocols**
  - D. Emergency evacuation plans**
- 5. Which organization is responsible for the Green Guide for Healthcare?**
  - A. A regulatory body for medical equipment**
  - B. A certification agency for healthcare construction**
  - C. An environmental protection agency**
  - D. A health insurance organization**

- 6. Define "soft costs" in the context of healthcare construction.**
- A. Costs of physical materials**
  - B. Indirect costs related to project management, legal fees, and financing**
  - C. Costs for labor and construction equipment**
  - D. Costs associated with landscaping and external design**
- 7. What is a significant risk associated with quenching a cryogen?**
- A. Potential chemical burns**
  - B. Leakage of radioactivity**
  - C. Explosion from rapid gas expansion**
  - D. Power outage**
- 8. What type of radiation is used in a positron emission tomography (PET) scan for imaging?**
- A. X-rays**
  - B. Ultrasound waves**
  - C. Intravenous radioactive materials**
  - D. Magnetic resonance imaging**
- 9. How can stakeholder engagement impact healthcare construction projects?**
- A. It can delay project timelines**
  - B. Engaging stakeholders can enhance project support, identify needs, and improve project outcomes**
  - C. It typically increases project costs**
  - D. It complicates decision-making processes**
- 10. Name a common type of healthcare facility.**
- A. Nursing homes**
  - B. Clinics**
  - C. Hospitals**
  - D. Rehabilitation centers**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What percentage of deaths from HAIs can be attributed to construction activities?**

- A. 1% to 2%
- B. 3% to 4%
- C. 5% to 7%**
- D. 8% to 10%

The percentage of deaths from healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) that can be attributed to construction activities is primarily focused on understanding the impact that construction can have on the healthcare environment. Research indicates that construction activities can disrupt existing infection control measures, leading to increased risks of HAIs, which can result in significant morbidity and mortality in healthcare settings. The figure of 5% to 7% reflects studies that specifically analyze the correlation between construction activities in hospitals and the incidence of HAIs. This percentage highlights the importance of maintaining stringent infection control practices during construction and renovation projects to mitigate the risk of infections that can lead to mortality. Awareness of this risk is critical for healthcare constructors, as it emphasizes the necessity for implementing effective infection prevention strategies, monitoring, and protocols during construction. This ensures that the overall safety and well-being of patients are prioritized while maintaining the requisite building upgrades or renovations.

**2. Which code is most relevant to healthcare facility construction?**

- A. Building Code Administration Code
- B. Uniform Building Code
- C. The Life Safety Code (NFPA 101)**
- D. International Code Council Code

The Life Safety Code (NFPA 101) is critical in healthcare facility construction because it specifically addresses safety measures pertaining to life safety from fire and related hazards in buildings. This code outlines the minimum requirements for the design, construction, and occupancy of buildings to ensure the safety of patients, staff, and visitors in healthcare settings. In healthcare facilities, where large numbers of vulnerable populations may be present, the provisions within this code help ensure proper egress routes, fire protection systems, and emergency planning are in place. Compliance with these safety standards is essential not only for regulatory requirements but also for the overall safety and wellbeing of individuals in these environments. While other codes, such as the Uniform Building Code and the International Code Council Code, address various aspects of building design and construction, they do not focus specifically on the specialized needs and safety concerns tied to healthcare facilities like the Life Safety Code does. Building Code Administration also offers regulatory guidance but is broader and may not encompass the unique challenges faced in healthcare construction. Thus, the Life Safety Code stands out as the most relevant for ensuring compliance with safety protocols in healthcare facility construction.

**3. Which building envelope material is the most expensive per square foot?**

- A. Masonry**
- B. Precast (tilt slab)**
- C. Curtain wall**
- D. Wood framing**

The curtain wall is recognized as the most expensive building envelope material per square foot due to several factors. One of the primary reasons for its high cost is the complexity of its design and installation. Curtain walls typically consist of large panels of glass and metal framing systems that require precise engineering and skilled labor to install correctly. This complexity translates into higher labor costs and careful attention to detail during construction. Furthermore, curtain walls often incorporate advanced materials and technologies, such as thermal performance enhancements and high-performance glazing systems, which contribute to their higher price. The aesthetic appeal and ability to create expansive, unobstructed views also make curtain walls a desirable choice for many modern architectural designs, justifying their elevated price point. In contrast, materials like masonry, precast (tilt slab), and wood framing generally have lower costs associated with both materials and their installation. They are more traditional building methods that do not demand the same level of precision and specialized labor required for curtain walls. Therefore, while all these materials serve important roles in building construction, the unique attributes, design considerations, and installation requirements of curtain walls position them as the costliest option.

**4. What is the key patient safety feature in an inpatient behavioral health unit?**

- A. Fall prevention strategies**
- B. Suicide prevention**
- C. Medication management protocols**
- D. Emergency evacuation plans**

In an inpatient behavioral health unit, the key patient safety feature is suicide prevention. This focus is crucial because individuals in such settings often face significant mental health challenges, which may include suicidal ideations or behaviors. Enhancing safety measures specifically aimed at reducing the risk of suicide involves both environmental design that minimizes potential hazards and implementing protocols that ensure continuous monitoring and support for at-risk patients. While fall prevention strategies, medication management protocols, and emergency evacuation plans are important components of overall patient safety in healthcare settings, they may not adequately address the unique vulnerabilities of patients in behavioral health units. Suicide prevention efforts specifically tailor interventions to the mental health needs of patients, emphasizing the importance of creating a safe environment where individuals can receive appropriate care and support during their treatment.

**5. Which organization is responsible for the Green Guide for Healthcare?**

- A. A regulatory body for medical equipment**
- B. A certification agency for healthcare construction**
- C. An environmental protection agency**
- D. A health insurance organization**

The organization responsible for the Green Guide for Healthcare is a certification agency for healthcare construction. The Green Guide for Healthcare is a comprehensive resource that establishes guidelines and best practices for environmentally sustainable design and construction of healthcare facilities. This initiative aims to promote green building principles and sustainable practices within the healthcare sector, addressing various areas such as site selection, materials, energy efficiency, and water use. By providing these recommendations, the guide helps healthcare constructors in creating environmentally friendly facilities that also contribute to better health outcomes for patients and staff. The focus of this certification agency is on elevating the standard of healthcare buildings and fostering a commitment to sustainability, which aligns perfectly with the objectives of the Green Guide for Healthcare.

**6. Define "soft costs" in the context of healthcare construction.**

- A. Costs of physical materials**
- B. Indirect costs related to project management, legal fees, and financing**
- C. Costs for labor and construction equipment**
- D. Costs associated with landscaping and external design**

The term "soft costs" in the context of healthcare construction refers to the indirect costs incurred during a construction project that do not involve physical construction materials. These costs can include project management fees, legal fees, financing costs, design and consulting fees, insurance, and other administrative expenses necessary for completing the project. Understanding soft costs is crucial for effectively budgeting and managing a construction project, as they can significantly impact the overall financial plan and must be accounted for in addition to the hard costs related to materials and labor. In contrast, the other options primarily pertain to tangible aspects of the project, such as direct costs for materials and labor, which fall under the category of "hard costs." Landscaping and external design, while important for the aesthetics of a facility, do not encompass the broader financial implications of project management and operational overhead that soft costs represent.

**7. What is a significant risk associated with quenching a cryogen?**

- A. Potential chemical burns**
- B. Leakage of radioactivity**
- C. Explosion from rapid gas expansion**
- D. Power outage**

Quenching a cryogen involves rapidly changing its state, often from a liquid to vapor, which can occur suddenly when the cryogen is exposed to higher temperatures. This rapid conversion leads to an increase in volume as the gas expands significantly. If this expansion happens too quickly, it can create an excessive pressure build-up, which may result in an explosion or a violent release of gas. This risk is particularly pertinent in controlled environments where cryogenic materials are used, such as in medical applications or scientific research. Understanding this effect is crucial because it highlights the importance of proper safety protocols when handling cryogenics, including ensuring that the equipment used to contain them is rated to handle potential pressure changes and that there is sufficient room for expansion. Other risks, like potential chemical burns or leakage of radioactivity, while serious, are not as directly related to the process of quenching a cryogen itself. Additionally, a power outage may have operational implications but does not directly relate to the specific dangers posed by the rapid gas expansion associated with quenching cryogenics. Recognizing the nature of gas dynamics involved in cryogen handling is essential for safety in these situations.

**8. What type of radiation is used in a positron emission tomography (PET) scan for imaging?**

- A. X-rays**
- B. Ultrasound waves**
- C. Intravenous radioactive materials**
- D. Magnetic resonance imaging**

Positron emission tomography (PET) scans utilize intravenous radioactive materials, commonly referred to as radiotracers. These materials are injected into the patient's bloodstream and emit positrons as they decay. When these positrons encounter electrons in the body, they annihilate each other and produce gamma rays. The PET scanner detects these gamma rays and uses the information to create detailed images of metabolic processes in the body. This modality is highly effective for diagnosing and monitoring conditions such as cancer, as it highlights areas of increased metabolic activity, which often correspond to tumors. The use of radioactive materials is essential for the operation of PET scans, making them distinct from other imaging techniques like X-rays, ultrasounds, or magnetic resonance imaging, which rely on different physical principles for imaging.

**9. How can stakeholder engagement impact healthcare construction projects?**

- A. It can delay project timelines**
- B. Engaging stakeholders can enhance project support, identify needs, and improve project outcomes**
- C. It typically increases project costs**
- D. It complicates decision-making processes**

Engaging stakeholders is crucial in healthcare construction projects because it fosters collaboration and communication between all parties involved, including hospital administrators, healthcare professionals, patients, and community representatives. This engagement leads to a better understanding of the needs, expectations, and concerns of various stakeholders, which can significantly enhance project support. When stakeholders are involved early in the planning process, their insights can help identify specific requirements for the healthcare facility, ensure compliance with regulatory standards, and address community health concerns. This can lead to improved project outcomes, as the end result is more likely to meet the intended functionality and quality standards that align with the healthcare services being provided. Moreover, strong stakeholder engagement often results in increased support for the project, as stakeholders feel a sense of ownership and have their voices heard. This can facilitate smoother project execution, reduce conflicts, and promote a more positive reception within the community upon project completion. Overall, effective stakeholder engagement is a strategic advantage that contributes to the success of healthcare construction projects.

**10. Name a common type of healthcare facility.**

- A. Nursing homes**
- B. Clinics**
- C. Hospitals**
- D. Rehabilitation centers**

Hospitals are indeed one of the most common types of healthcare facilities. They play a crucial role in the healthcare system by providing a wide range of services including emergency care, surgical procedures, inpatient and outpatient services, and specialized medical treatments. Hospitals typically have the capacity for prolonged patient stays and are equipped with advanced medical technology, operating rooms, and various departments such as radiology, cardiology, and maternity care, which make them a central hub for patient healthcare needs. While nursing homes, clinics, and rehabilitation centers are also significant types of healthcare facilities, they serve different functions and patient populations. Nursing homes provide long-term care for individuals with chronic illnesses or disabilities, clinics often focus on outpatient care and preventive services, and rehabilitation centers specialize in recovery services for patients recovering from surgery or injury. Each type of facility has its own specific roles within the healthcare system, but hospitals are recognized as the primary institution for comprehensive and emergent healthcare services.