

CERTIFIED PHARMACY TECHNICIAN (CPHT) 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. A pharmacy technician is entering a prescription that states, "Dispense as written." Which DAW code should be entered into the computer system?**
 - A. DAW 0
 - B. DAW 1
 - C. DAW 2
 - D. DAW 3

- 2. What is a common name for a pharmacy inventory process involving staff writing down items to be reordered?**
 - A. Stock check
 - B. Inventory audit
 - C. Purchase order
 - D. Want list

- 3. When validating a DEA number, which letter should the second character represent?**
 - A. The first letter of the medication prescribed
 - B. The first letter of the patient's last name
 - C. The first letter of the prescriber's last name
 - D. The first letter of the pharmacy name

- 4. What is the significance of using the First In, First Out method in pharmacy?**
 - A. It enhances the effectiveness of stocked medications
 - B. It ensures the oldest stock is used before new stock
 - C. It helps reduce medication costs
 - D. It minimizes the chances of medication errors

- 5. What does the abbreviation "au" represent?**
 - A. Right eye
 - B. Both ears
 - C. Intramuscular
 - D. Left ear

- 6. What is the purpose of hand hygiene in pharmacy practice?**
- A. To keep hands dry
 - B. To reduce the risk of contamination
 - C. To prevent allergic reactions
 - D. To improve workflow
- 7. What does it indicate when a vitamin is classified as water soluble?**
- A. The vitamin can be stored in the liver
 - B. The vitamin will accumulate in the body
 - C. The vitamin cannot be excreted
 - D. The vitamin will not accumulate in the body
- 8. What term describes a patient who is undergoing diagnostic or therapeutic procedures outside an acute care hospital?**
- A. Inpatient
 - B. Outpatient
 - C. Long-term care patient
 - D. Residential patient
- 9. Based on the prescription instructions "i po qid ac", which label direction should be included?**
- A. Take one by mouth three times daily after meals
 - B. Take one by mouth once daily before meals
 - C. Take one by mouth every other day after meals
 - D. Take one by mouth four times daily before meals
- 10. What is rebound congestion commonly associated with?**
- A. Excessive hydration
 - B. Frequent use of nasal decongestants
 - C. Improperly managed allergic reactions
 - D. Too much rest

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. A pharmacy technician is entering a prescription that states, "Dispense as written." Which DAW code should be entered into the computer system?

- A. DAW 0
- B. DAW 1**
- C. DAW 2
- D. DAW 3

The appropriate DAW (Dispense As Written) code to enter when a prescription states "Dispense as written" is DAW 1. This code is specifically used to indicate that the prescribing physician has instructed that the medication be dispensed exactly as written, without any substitutions. This is often utilized to ensure that a specific brand or formulation is provided rather than a generic equivalent. When a prescription indicates "Dispense as written," it signifies the physician's clear intent to prevent the pharmacy from making any changes to the prescribed medication. This could be due to a variety of reasons, such as the patient's particular response to a specific drug formulation or potential allergic reactions to certain excipients in generics, thus requiring adherence to the original prescription as written. Other DAW codes have different implications; for example, DAW 0 denotes that there is no substitution needed, but it does not specify that the prescriber has demanded a specific product. DAW 2 allows for substitution at the discretion of the pharmacist, which is inappropriate when "Dispense as written" is specified. DAW 3 relates to a prescription where the patient requests a different product; this does not apply in this case since the directive comes from the prescriber. In summary, the

2. What is a common name for a pharmacy inventory process involving staff writing down items to be reordered?

- A. Stock check
- B. Inventory audit
- C. Purchase order
- D. Want list**

The term "want list" accurately describes a pharmacy inventory process where staff members note down items that need to be reordered. This process allows staff to keep track of stock levels and identify which medications or supplies are running low, ensuring that the pharmacy is well-stocked to meet patient needs. In this context, a "want list" directly reflects the intention of staff to manage inventory proactively by creating a list of items that are desired for restocking. It focuses on the specific products that need to be ordered as dictated by current inventory levels. Other terms related to inventory management, such as "stock check" or "inventory audit," typically refer to broader processes of verifying stock against records rather than just finding items that need reordering. A "purchase order," on the other hand, is a document submitted to a supplier to request items, but it does not embody the initial step of identifying the need for those items, which is captured in the concept of a want list.

3. When validating a DEA number, which letter should the second character represent?

- A. The first letter of the medication prescribed
- B. The first letter of the patient's last name
- C. The first letter of the prescriber's last name**
- D. The first letter of the pharmacy name

The correct answer is that the second character of a DEA number should represent the first letter of the prescriber's last name. This is a key component in the validation process of a DEA number, which is essential in ensuring that prescriptions for controlled substances are authorized. When a DEA number is structured, it consists of two letters followed by seven digits. The first letter identifies the type of registrant, such as a physician, while the second letter acts as an identifier that, specifically, will correlate with the prescriber's last name. This serves as a checkpoint to confirm that the DEA number is indeed associated with a legitimate prescriber, aiding in preventing prescription fraud and promoting safe medication practices. Understanding this structure helps pharmacy technicians quickly verify the legitimacy of a prescribed medication and ensure their compliance with regulations governing controlled substances.

4. What is the significance of using the First In, First Out method in pharmacy?

- A. It enhances the effectiveness of stocked medications
- B. It ensures the oldest stock is used before new stock**
- C. It helps reduce medication costs
- D. It minimizes the chances of medication errors

Using the First In, First Out (FIFO) method in pharmacy is significant because it ensures that the oldest stock of medications is utilized before newer stock. This practice is crucial for maintaining the safety and efficacy of medications, as it helps prevent the use of expired or outdated products. Pharmacies often receive medications with varying expiration dates, and by implementing FIFO, they can effectively manage their inventory and ensure that patients receive the most recent and safest medications available. This method contributes to patient safety by reducing the risk of adverse effects associated with using expired medications and helps maintain regulatory compliance, as proper inventory management is often mandated by health authorities. By consistently using the oldest stock first, pharmacies can minimize waste and ensure effective medication management.

5. What does the abbreviation "au" represent?

- A. Right eye
- B. Both ears**
- C. Intramuscular
- D. Left ear

The abbreviation "au" stands for "both ears." In medical terminology, "au" is derived from the Latin term "auris utraque," which translates to "each ear." This abbreviation is commonly used in prescriptions and medical documentation to indicate that a treatment or medication should be applied or administered to both ears simultaneously. Understanding the use of "au" can help pharmacy technicians accurately interpret and fill prescriptions that involve ear treatments, ensuring that patients receive the appropriate care for conditions affecting their hearing or ear health. This clarity is crucial for patient safety and effective treatment outcomes.

6. What is the purpose of hand hygiene in pharmacy practice?

- A. To keep hands dry
- B. To reduce the risk of contamination**
- C. To prevent allergic reactions
- D. To improve workflow

Hand hygiene is a critical practice in pharmacy settings because it plays a major role in reducing the risk of contamination. This is essential in maintaining the integrity of medications and ensuring patient safety. In a pharmacy, technicians frequently handle various drugs, equipment, and customer interactions. If proper hand hygiene is neglected, there is a heightened risk of transferring pathogens that could contaminate medications or surfaces, potentially leading to adverse health effects for patients. By practicing effective hand hygiene, such as washing hands thoroughly with soap and water or using hand sanitizer when appropriate, pharmacy personnel can significantly lessen the likelihood of spreading infections or introducing harmful substances into sterile products. Hand hygiene protocols are established to protect both the pharmacy staff and the patients they serve, ensuring a safe healthcare environment. While keeping hands dry can be a pleasant byproduct of good hygiene practices, the primary purpose is to minimize contamination risks, making option B the correct answer. Improving workflow may be a secondary benefit resulting from efficient practices, but it doesn't directly address the fundamental need for controlling infection and contamination in pharmacy practice.

7. What does it indicate when a vitamin is classified as water soluble?

- A. The vitamin can be stored in the liver
- B. The vitamin will accumulate in the body
- C. The vitamin cannot be excreted
- D. The vitamin will not accumulate in the body**

When a vitamin is classified as water soluble, it indicates that the vitamin will not accumulate in the body. Water-soluble vitamins, which include the B-complex vitamins and vitamin C, dissolve in water and are readily excreted through urine. This means that any excess amounts taken are eliminated rather than stored, reducing the risk of toxicity that can occur with fat-soluble vitamins, which can accumulate in body tissues. This classification clarifies the behavior and handling of these vitamins within the body. Unlike fat-soluble vitamins, which can be stored in the liver and fatty tissues for longer periods, water-soluble vitamins need to be consumed more regularly to maintain adequate levels.

8. What term describes a patient who is undergoing diagnostic or therapeutic procedures outside an acute care hospital?

- A. Inpatient
- B. Outpatient**
- C. Long-term care patient
- D. Residential patient

The term that describes a patient undergoing diagnostic or therapeutic procedures outside an acute care hospital is "outpatient." Outpatients receive care without being admitted to the hospital, meaning they do not require an overnight stay. This model of care allows for various procedures and treatments to be conducted in settings like doctor's offices, clinics, or hospital outpatient departments, making it more convenient and cost-effective for patients who do not need the intensive resources of an inpatient facility. Inpatient refers to patients who have been admitted to a hospital and typically require at least one overnight stay for treatment. Long-term care patients are those who need ongoing medical care and assistance, often in specialized facilities, but are not necessarily undergoing acute care procedures. Residential patients live in a facility where extended care is provided, which may include assistance with daily living. All these other terms specify care settings and scenarios that do not align with the outpatient model.

9. Based on the prescription instructions "i po qid ac", which label direction should be included?

- A. Take one by mouth three times daily after meals
- B. Take one by mouth once daily before meals
- C. Take one by mouth every other day after meals
- D. Take one by mouth four times daily before meals**

The prescription instruction "i po qid ac" translates to "one (i) by mouth (po), four times (qid) a day (q) before meals (ac)." This indicates that the patient should take one unit of the medication four times daily, specifically before meals. In this context, the phrase "before meals" signifies that the medication should be taken at scheduled intervals prior to eating, which is critical for medications that have specific requirements related to food intake for optimal effectiveness or to minimize side effects. Taking the medication four times a day allows for consistent levels of the medication in the body, which is often necessary for achieving the desired therapeutic effect. The mention of "before meals" is an important part of the regimen that ensures the medication is administered correctly according to the physician's instructions. Therefore, the correct label direction accurately reflects these details for proper medication administration.

10. What is rebound congestion commonly associated with?

- A. Excessive hydration
- B. Frequent use of nasal decongestants**
- C. Improperly managed allergic reactions
- D. Too much rest

Rebound congestion is a phenomenon that can occur when nasal decongestants are used excessively. Nasal decongestants, such as oxymetazoline and phenylephrine, work by constricting blood vessels in the nasal passages, reducing swelling and allowing for easier breathing. However, when these medications are used over a prolonged period, typically more than three consecutive days, the nasal passages can become dependent on the medication for normal function. Once the use of the decongestant is stopped, the blood vessels can dilate more than they originally did, leading to increased congestion. This creates a cycle where patients feel compelled to use the decongestant continuously to relieve the congestion it has caused. In contrast, excessive hydration, improperly managed allergic reactions, or too much rest do not lead to this specific response in the nasal passages. While hydration is essential for overall health and can help thin mucus in the respiratory tract, it does not contribute to rebound congestion. Allergic reactions may cause congestion, but managing these properly with antihistamines or intranasal corticosteroids can actually prevent rebound effects rather than contribute to them. Similarly, while rest is vital for recovery and health, it has no direct relationship with the mechanism of rebound congestion.

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://pharmacytech.examzify.com>

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

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