

CMS Practical Nursing (PN) Pediatrics Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	9
Explanations	11
Next Steps	16

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

- 1. A toddler presents in the ED with muffled voice, drooling, chin thrust forward, and inspiratory stridor with fever. Which action should the nurse take first?**
 - A. Inspect the throat with a tongue depressor**
 - B. Encourage the child to lie flat**
 - C. Prepare for immediate endotracheal intubation and avoid throat examination**
 - D. Administer a sedative to calm the child**

- 2. Which statement indicates proper home care for a child with eczema?**
 - A. Take hot baths to moisturize skin**
 - B. Apply a skin emollient immediately after bathing**
 - C. Use a detergent with fragrance**
 - D. Scrub the skin with a washcloth daily**

- 3. Before starting isotretinoin therapy, which precaution should the adolescent be informed is required?**
 - A. One negative pregnancy test**
 - B. Pregnancy test after starting therapy**
 - C. No pregnancy testing is needed**
 - D. Two negative pregnancy tests prior to starting this medication**

- 4. In the emergency department, a nurse has access to the Nurses' Notes and Vital Signs at 0100 and Provider Prescriptions at 0105. What practice best supports patient safety?**
 - A. Accept the new orders without checking**
 - B. Cross-check orders with current data before acting**
 - C. Ignore the notes and only follow prescriptions**
 - D. Delay action until the next shift**

- 5. After a tonsillectomy, which sign should prompt immediate reporting to the clinician?**
- A. Mild throat pain**
 - B. Sore throat, mild**
 - C. Continuous swallowing**
 - D. Normal swallowing**
- 6. Which symptom is most characteristic of epiglottitis in a child?**
- A. Mild cough**
 - B. Drooling and muffled voice**
 - C. Barking cough**
 - D. Rhinorrhea**
- 7. Which data in an 18-month-old should prompt further evaluation for hypertension?**
- A. Blood pressure 120/80 mm Hg**
 - B. Heart rate 110 bpm**
 - C. Respirations 22/min**
 - D. Temperature 37°C**
- 8. For a school-age child with lactose intolerance, which supplement should be included in the diet?**
- A. Calcium supplement**
 - B. Vitamin D**
 - C. Iron supplement**
 - D. Potassium supplement**
- 9. In a child with type 1 diabetes experiencing an acute illness, which action should the nurse include in the plan of care?**
- A. Restrict fluids to prevent hypoglycemia**
 - B. Encourage increased fluid intake**
 - C. Limit carbohydrates to zero**
 - D. Administer sugar-containing drinks to prevent dehydration**

10. At a 6-month well-child visit, which parental statement shows understanding of the immunization schedule?

- A. My baby will receive their MMR vaccine today**
- B. The Hib vaccine is due today**
- C. My baby will receive their DTaP vaccine today**
- D. Varicella vaccine will be given today**

SAMPLE

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. A toddler presents in the ED with muffled voice, drooling, chin thrust forward, and inspiratory stridor with fever. Which action should the nurse take first?
- A. Inspect the throat with a tongue depressor
 - B. Encourage the child to lie flat
 - C. Prepare for immediate endotracheal intubation and avoid throat examination**
 - D. Administer a sedative to calm the child

This presentation signals epiglottitis, a sudden risk of life-threatening airway obstruction. The priority is to secure the airway in a controlled setting. Preparing for immediate endotracheal intubation ensures the airway is protected if swelling progresses, and avoiding any throat examination is crucial because manipulating the swollen epiglottis can trigger laryngospasm and worsen obstruction. Keep the child in a calm, upright position and provide oxygen as needed while the airway team is assembled. Sedatives or trying to look at the throat can derail airway management and are not appropriate before securing the airway.

2. Which statement indicates proper home care for a child with eczema?
- A. Take hot baths to moisturize skin
 - B. Apply a skin emollient immediately after bathing**
 - C. Use a detergent with fragrance
 - D. Scrub the skin with a washcloth daily

Maintaining skin hydration to support the damaged skin barrier is the key. After bathing, the skin is primed to absorb moisture, so applying a skin emollient right away helps seal in water and restore barrier function, reducing dryness and itch. This immediate post-bath step is more effective than waiting, and continued use of a fragrance-free moisturizer helps prevent flare-ups. To protect eczema-prone skin, use lukewarm baths or short showers, pat the skin dry gently (not rubbing), and follow with an emollient while the skin is still damp. Also choose mild, fragrance-free cleansers and avoid harsh scrubbing. The other practices—hot baths, scented detergents, and daily scrubbing—tend to irritate and dry the skin, worsening eczema.

3. Before starting isotretinoin therapy, which precaution should the adolescent be informed is required?

- A. One negative pregnancy test**
- B. Pregnancy test after starting therapy**
- C. No pregnancy testing is needed**
- D. Two negative pregnancy tests prior to starting this medication**

Isotretinoin is extremely teratogenic, so it must only be started when you can be absolutely sure the patient is not pregnant. The safe protocol requires two separate negative pregnancy tests before beginning treatment to confirm there is no pregnancy at the start. This minimizes the risk of exposing a fetus to the drug during the very early stages of pregnancy, when defects can begin to develop. One negative test wouldn't provide as strong a guarantee, testing after starting would not prevent exposure if pregnancy exists at initiation, and no testing is unsafe. Therefore, two negative pregnancy tests before starting isotretinoin are required.

4. In the emergency department, a nurse has access to the Nurses' Notes and Vital Signs at 0100 and Provider Prescriptions at 0105. What practice best supports patient safety?

- A. Accept the new orders without checking**
- B. Cross-check orders with current data before acting**
- C. Ignore the notes and only follow prescriptions**
- D. Delay action until the next shift**

Verifying that orders match the most current patient data is essential for safe nursing practice. In the ED, a patient's status can change quickly—vital signs may shift, new notes may reveal evolving concerns, or there may be updated allergies or contraindications not reflected in the original order. By cross-checking provider prescriptions against the latest Nurses' Notes and Vital Signs, the nurse confirms that the planned action still fits the patient's current condition and avoids potential harm from outdated information. This approach helps catch mismatches or changes in status before proceeding, supporting timely yet safe care. Accepting orders without checking can lead to applying an intervention that isn't appropriate for the present condition. Ignoring the clinical notes and only following prescriptions misses important context. Delaying action until another shift risks deterioration or delays in treatment.

5. After a tonsillectomy, which sign should prompt immediate reporting to the clinician?

- A. Mild throat pain**
- B. Sore throat, mild**
- C. Continuous swallowing**
- D. Normal swallowing**

Continuous swallowing after a tonsillectomy signals possible active bleeding in the throat. When bleeding occurs, blood can pool and the patient instinctively swallows to clear it, which is not typical after surgery. This situation can progress quickly and threaten the airway or cause significant blood loss, so it requires immediate clinician assessment. By comparison, mild throat pain or a mild sore throat are common after the procedure and can be managed with pain relief, and normal swallowing suggests there isn't active bleeding.

6. Which symptom is most characteristic of epiglottitis in a child?

- A. Mild cough**
- B. Drooling and muffled voice**
- C. Barking cough**
- D. Rhinorrhea**

Epiglottitis causes swelling above the vocal cords, narrowing the airway. The hallmark sign is drooling with a muffled or "hot potato" voice. Drooling happens because swallowing is painful and difficult with the swollen epiglottis, and the muffled voice comes from the swollen tissue dampening voice resonance. This combination is distinct from other common pediatric airway illnesses. A barking cough and rhinorrhea are more typical of croup or a viral URI, not epiglottitis. Because epiglottitis can rapidly progress to airway obstruction, recognizing drooling with a muffled voice is a urgent red flag that requires immediate medical evaluation and airway readiness.

7. Which data in an 18-month-old should prompt further evaluation for hypertension?

- A. Blood pressure 120/80 mm Hg**
- B. Heart rate 110 bpm**
- C. Respirations 22/min**
- D. Temperature 37°C**

In children, hypertension is defined by blood pressure percentiles that account for age, sex, and height, and a reading that falls well above those percentiles should trigger further evaluation. For an 18-month-old, a systolic value around 120 mm Hg is substantially higher than expected and likely above the 95th percentile, so it warrants additional assessment to confirm persistent hypertension and explore possible secondary causes. Other vital signs listed—heart rate about 110 bpm, respirations around 22 per minute, and temperature near 37°C—fall within typical pediatric ranges and do not by themselves indicate hypertension. Therefore, the elevated blood pressure reading is the data that prompts further evaluation.

8. For a school-age child with lactose intolerance, which supplement should be included in the diet?

- A. Calcium supplement**
- B. Vitamin D**
- C. Iron supplement**
- D. Potassium supplement**

When lactose intolerance limits dairy intake, the main source of calcium for growing bones is reduced, which can threaten bone health. Calcium is essential, but its absorption depends on vitamin D. Vitamin D enables the gut to absorb calcium effectively and supports bone mineralization, helping to maintain strong bones even when dairy consumption is limited. So, ensuring adequate vitamin D intake helps maximize calcium use and supports healthy bone development in school-age children who can't tolerate lactose well.

9. In a child with type 1 diabetes experiencing an acute illness, which action should the nurse include in the plan of care?

- A. Restrict fluids to prevent hypoglycemia**
- B. Encourage increased fluid intake**
- C. Limit carbohydrates to zero**
- D. Administer sugar-containing drinks to prevent dehydration**

When a child with type 1 diabetes is ill, staying well hydrated is essential. Illness often brings fluid losses from fever, vomiting, and decreased intake, and high blood glucose can cause osmotic diuresis that further dehydrates. The plan should prioritize increasing fluids to replace these losses and maintain circulating volume, which helps protect kidney function and reduce the risk of diabetic ketoacidosis. Offer small, frequent sips and use oral rehydration solutions when possible to restore electrolytes and fluids without causing large glucose spikes. Avoid restricting fluids, and avoid giving sugary drinks as the primary hydration source, since they can raise blood glucose and worsen dehydration. If fluids can't be tolerated, or if there are warning signs like persistent vomiting, fever with poor intake, or signs of DKA (extreme irritability, dehydration, rapid breathing), seek medical care promptly.

10. At a 6-month well-child visit, which parental statement shows understanding of the immunization schedule?

- A. My baby will receive their MMR vaccine today**
- B. The Hib vaccine is due today**
- C. My baby will receive their DTaP vaccine today**
- D. Varicella vaccine will be given today**

Infant immunization timing is about which vaccines are due at specific ages. At six months, the third dose of the DTaP series is typically due, so saying that the DTaP vaccine will be given today shows correct scheduling. MMR and Varicella are not given until around 12 to 15 months, so bringing them up at a six-month visit indicates misunderstanding of the timetable. Hib vaccines can be part of the early series, depending on the brand, but the most consistently expected 6-month dose is DTaP. Recognizing that a six-month visit commonly includes the third DTaP dose reflects proper understanding of the immunization schedule.

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://cmspnpediatrics.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE