

Comprehensive Core Nursing 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	8
Explanations	10
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. For a patient with pressure ulcers, which type of dressing is often recommended for moisture retention?**
 - A. Hydrocolloid dressing**
 - B. Gauze dressing**
 - C. Adhesive bandage**
 - D. Transparent film**

- 2. Which nursing action is the most effective for promoting patient safety?**
 - A. Documenting patient complaints**
 - B. Identifying and addressing potential hazards**
 - C. Reporting incidents to administration**
 - D. Providing patient education materials**

- 3. According to safety protocols, after a fall, what should a healthcare provider assess first?**
 - A. Patient's mental state**
 - B. Potential injuries from the fall**
 - C. Witness statements**
 - D. Environmental factors leading to the fall**

- 4. Which healthcare professional is authorized to legally write a restraining order?**
 - A. Nurse**
 - B. Psychologist**
 - C. Physician**
 - D. Social worker**

- 5. What is the primary focus of a comprehensive pain management plan in hospice care?**
 - A. To increase medication intake**
 - B. To enhance patient comfort**
 - C. To decrease healthcare costs**
 - D. To prepare for end-of-life documentation**

- 6. What does the acronym SBAR stand for in communication?**
- A. Subject, Background, Assessment, Response**
 - B. Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation**
 - C. Summary, Background, Assessment, Review**
 - D. Structure, Background, Assessment, Relay**
- 7. What is the primary role of the nurse in pain management?**
- A. Administer pain relief medications**
 - B. Assess and communicate the patient's pain levels**
 - C. Consult with physicians for pain management strategies**
 - D. Document pain levels for future reference**
- 8. What is the best practice for the administration of nitroglycerin?**
- A. Administer it intramuscularly**
 - B. Provide it sublingually for angina relief**
 - C. Give it as a topical ointment**
 - D. Inject it intravenously**
- 9. Regular repositioning of patients is crucial to prevent:**
- A. Pneumonia**
 - B. Diabetes**
 - C. Pressure ulcers**
 - D. Infections**
- 10. What is the Glasgow Coma Scale score indicating severe coma?**
- A. 15 or more**
 - B. 12 or less**
 - C. 8 or less**
 - D. 5 or less**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. For a patient with pressure ulcers, which type of dressing is often recommended for moisture retention?

- A. Hydrocolloid dressing**
- B. Gauze dressing**
- C. Adhesive bandage**
- D. Transparent film**

The recommended dressing for moisture retention in patients with pressure ulcers is a hydrocolloid dressing. Hydrocolloid dressings are designed to maintain a moist wound environment, which is essential for optimal healing. They are made of materials that absorb exudate while preventing excess moisture loss, creating an ideal condition for granulation tissue formation and epithelial migration. In addition to moisture retention, hydrocolloid dressings also have a protective barrier against contaminants and can facilitate autolytic debridement, which helps in the natural removal of dead tissue without the need for invasive procedures. This leads to faster healing times and reduced pain for the patient. Other types of dressings, such as gauze dressings, do not retain moisture effectively and can dry out the wound, potentially leading to increased pain and delayed healing. Adhesive bandages may be more appropriate for superficial wounds but lack the advanced moisture-retaining properties needed for deeper ulcers. Transparent film dressings can provide a moist environment but are generally more suitable for shallow wounds rather than those with significant exudate or deeper lesions. Therefore, hydrocolloid dressings are the preferred choice for maintaining moisture for pressure ulcer care.

2. Which nursing action is the most effective for promoting patient safety?

- A. Documenting patient complaints**
- B. Identifying and addressing potential hazards**
- C. Reporting incidents to administration**
- D. Providing patient education materials**

Identifying and addressing potential hazards is crucial for promoting patient safety because it proactively targets the root causes of harm. This action involves assessing the environment, practices, and systems in place to identify any factors that could compromise patient safety. By recognizing these hazards early, nurses can implement strategies to mitigate risks, such as modifying procedures, improving equipment safety, or enhancing communication among team members. This preventative approach allows nursing professionals to create a safer healthcare environment, reducing the likelihood of adverse events, injuries, or medical errors. While documenting complaints, reporting incidents, and providing education materials are all important aspects of nursing practice, they primarily serve reactive or ancillary roles rather than directly preventing safety issues from arising. In contrast, actively addressing potential hazards provides a foundational strategy for maintaining and enhancing patient safety across care settings.

3. According to safety protocols, after a fall, what should a healthcare provider assess first?

- A. Patient's mental state**
- B. Potential injuries from the fall**
- C. Witness statements**
- D. Environmental factors leading to the fall**

The correct answer involves assessing potential injuries from the fall as the first step in responding to such an incident. When a patient experiences a fall, it is crucial to prioritize their physical well-being. This involves evaluating any injuries they may have sustained, such as fractures, head injuries, or internal injuries. Prompt assessment of injuries is vital for determining the necessary medical interventions and ensuring that the patient receives appropriate care without delay. While assessing the patient's mental state is important, especially in understanding their cognitive status and determining their ability to communicate effectively, this should follow the initial evaluation of any physical injuries. Witness statements and environmental factors are also significant aspects to consider for preventing future falls and understanding circumstances surrounding the incident, but they do not take precedence over immediate patient safety and injury assessment. Addressing potential injuries ensures that the patient receives timely treatment, which can significantly impact their recovery and overall health outcomes.

4. Which healthcare professional is authorized to legally write a restraining order?

- A. Nurse**
- B. Psychologist**
- C. Physician**
- D. Social worker**

A physician is authorized to legally write a restraining order because they have the necessary medical training and authority to assess situations that may warrant such a legal intervention, particularly in cases related to the mental health or safety of patients. In situations where a patient poses a risk to themselves or others, a physician can evaluate the circumstances and determine if a restraining order is appropriate. They possess the expertise to understand the implications of such a decision and to document the clinical rationale behind it, making them uniquely qualified to initiate this legal process. While nurses, psychologists, and social workers play critical roles in patient care and support, they do not have the legal authority to issue restraining orders. Nurses may assist in patient assessments and care but would need to work under a physician's orders for legal interventions. Psychologists can evaluate mental health conditions and recommend treatment plans, but they, too, generally rely on physicians to handle legal documentation such as restraining orders. Social workers are vital for connecting patients with resources and support systems but do not have the capacity to authorize restraining orders without medical input. Thus, the physician's role encompasses both medical expertise and legal authority in this context.

5. What is the primary focus of a comprehensive pain management plan in hospice care?

- A. To increase medication intake**
- B. To enhance patient comfort**
- C. To decrease healthcare costs**
- D. To prepare for end-of-life documentation**

The primary focus of a comprehensive pain management plan in hospice care is to enhance patient comfort. In hospice settings, the overarching goal is to provide quality of life for patients who are facing terminal illnesses. This involves not just medical interventions but also emotional and psychological support. A pain management plan prioritizes the alleviation of pain and other distressing symptoms, ensuring that patients are as comfortable as possible during their final days. By effectively managing pain, healthcare providers can help patients engage more fully with their remaining time, allowing them to participate in meaningful activities, spend quality time with loved ones, and maintain their dignity. Comfort measures may include a combination of medications, therapies, and supportive care tailored to the individual needs of the patient, all aimed at promoting a peaceful and pain-free experience. Other options, while they may have some relevance in broader care contexts, do not encapsulate the primary aim of hospice care. Increasing medication intake may just lead to overmedication without addressing comfort. Decreasing healthcare costs, although an important consideration in overall healthcare, does not pertain specifically to the goals of a pain management plan in hospice. Preparing end-of-life documentation is a procedural aspect of care but does not reflect the compassionate approach central to hospice missions.

6. What does the acronym SBAR stand for in communication?

- A. Subject, Background, Assessment, Response**
- B. Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation**
- C. Summary, Background, Assessment, Review**
- D. Structure, Background, Assessment, Relay**

The acronym SBAR stands for Situation, Background, Assessment, and Recommendation, which is a standardized communication tool used primarily in healthcare settings to facilitate effective and efficient communication among healthcare providers. In the context of patient care, "Situation" refers to the current status of the patient and the immediate concern that requires attention. "Background" provides context by summarizing the patient's history and relevant details that pertain to the current situation. "Assessment" involves analyzing the information gathered and expressing the clinician's professional interpretation of the situation. Finally, "Recommendation" suggests the next steps or actions that should be taken in response to the assessment. Using SBAR enhances clarity and ensures that critical information is conveyed succinctly, thereby improving patient safety and healthcare outcomes. The other options do not accurately represent the components of SBAR, which is integral to effective communication in nursing practice.

7. What is the primary role of the nurse in pain management?

- A. Administer pain relief medications**
- B. Assess and communicate the patient's pain levels**
- C. Consult with physicians for pain management strategies**
- D. Document pain levels for future reference**

The primary role of the nurse in pain management is to assess and communicate the patient's pain levels. This is essential because understanding the nature of a patient's pain—its intensity, location, duration, and characteristics—enables the healthcare team to tailor an effective pain management plan. The nurse plays a crucial role in establishing a trusting relationship with patients, allowing them to express their pain experiences openly. This assessment not only informs medication administration and interventions but also aids in monitoring the effectiveness of pain relief strategies over time. Although administering pain relief medications, consulting with physicians, and documenting pain levels are important aspects of pain management, they stem from the foundational knowledge gained through thorough assessment and communication. Without reliable assessments, medication and interventions may not be aligned with the patient's individual pain experience, leading to inadequate pain control. Therefore, effective assessment and communication are pivotal in promoting optimal pain management and ensuring patient comfort.

8. What is the best practice for the administration of nitroglycerin?

- A. Administer it intramuscularly**
- B. Provide it sublingually for angina relief**
- C. Give it as a topical ointment**
- D. Inject it intravenously**

The best practice for the administration of nitroglycerin is to provide it sublingually for angina relief. This route allows for rapid absorption into the bloodstream, resulting in quick relief of angina symptoms. When nitroglycerin is placed under the tongue, it bypasses the gastrointestinal tract and first-pass metabolism, enabling it to take effect within minutes. Sublingual nitroglycerin is specifically formulated for this purpose and is typically the first-line treatment for acute angina attacks. It's important to instruct patients to let the tablet dissolve fully under their tongue without swallowing it for optimal effectiveness. While nitroglycerin can also be administered in other forms, such as topical ointments or through intravenous injection, those methods are more commonly used in specific clinical settings or for ongoing management and prevention of angina rather than for immediate symptomatic relief. Intramuscular administration is not an appropriate route for nitroglycerin, as it would not provide timely relief for anginal symptoms.

9. Regular repositioning of patients is crucial to prevent:

- A. Pneumonia
- B. Diabetes
- C. Pressure ulcers**
- D. Infections

Regular repositioning of patients is essential in preventing pressure ulcers, also known as bedsores or decubitus ulcers. These skin and tissue injuries occur when there is prolonged pressure on the skin, particularly over bony prominences. When patients remain in one position for an extended period, blood flow to the area is compromised, which can lead to tissue ischemia and subsequent damage. Repositioning helps to alleviate this pressure, enhance blood circulation, and facilitate skin integrity by redistributing weight and providing relief to parts of the body at risk of developing sores. This practice is particularly important for patients who are immobilized, such as those with limited mobility due to illness, surgery, or other conditions. By maintaining regular repositioning schedules, healthcare providers can significantly reduce the incidence and severity of pressure ulcers. Although regular repositioning may have benefits for conditions like pneumonia or infections by promoting lung expansion and decreasing the risk of fluid buildup, its primary role in this context is focused on preventing pressure ulcers.

10. What is the Glasgow Coma Scale score indicating severe coma?

- A. 15 or more
- B. 12 or less
- C. 8 or less**
- D. 5 or less

The Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) is a clinical scale used to assess a person's level of consciousness after a brain injury. It evaluates three aspects: eye opening, verbal response, and motor response, with a total score ranging from 3 to 15. A score of 15 indicates full consciousness, while scores of 8 or less indicate a severe impairment of consciousness, commonly categorized as a "severe coma." In the case of scoring, a person with a GCS of 8 or less would typically require immediate medical attention, often indicating the need for advanced life support or interventions to manage the airway and vital functions. Scores lower than 8 suggest that the individual may not be able to protect their airway effectively, which is critical in assessing the risk of coma and potential outcomes. Therefore, a GCS score of 8 or less directly correlates with severe coma, making it the correct answer in this scenario.

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://compcorenursing.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE