

CPT (Certified Phlebotomy Technician) Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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

- 1. What belongs on a properly labeled specimen?**
 - A. Color of blood**
 - B. Initials only**
 - C. Patient info, date, time of draw, initials**
 - D. Results**

- 2. If you notice petechiae or a hematoma forming during a blood draw, what should you do?**
 - A. Continue as normal**
 - B. Consult a colleague**
 - C. Petechiae: Remove tourniquet; Hematoma: Stop**
 - D. Apply more pressure**

- 3. What are the signs of an allergic reaction during venipuncture?**
 - A. Swelling and redness only**
 - B. Hives, itching, swelling, or difficulty breathing**
 - C. Dizziness and headache**
 - D. Fever and chills**

- 4. What color tube is used for a CBC?**
 - A. Brown**
 - B. Red**
 - C. Blue**
 - D. Lavender**

- 5. For a RED tube, what test is typically run, which anticoagulant is used, and to which lab section is it sent?**
 - A. Stat chemistry, sodium heparin, chemistry**
 - B. Blood typing, none, blood bank**
 - C. Cardiac, lithium heparin, chemistry**
 - D. CBC, EDTA, hematology**

- 6. What chemical additive is in a red tube?**
- A. Lithium Heparin**
 - B. Sodium Citrate**
 - C. Silicone**
 - D. Sodium Heparin**
- 7. What are the three patient identifiers?**
- A. Date, time, location**
 - B. First name, last name, date of birth**
 - C. First name, last name, last 4 number of SS, DOB**
 - D. Insurance details**
- 8. What is the difference between plasma and serum?**
- A. Serum contains more nutrients than plasma**
 - B. Plasma has clotting factors; serum is plasma without clotting factors**
 - C. There is no difference; they are interchangeable**
 - D. Plasma is thicker than serum**
- 9. What color tube is used for an A1C?**
- A. Red**
 - B. Green**
 - C. Yellow**
 - D. Lavender**
- 10. What position should a person be placed in if they have a history of fainting?**
- A. Sitting**
 - B. Prone**
 - C. Supine**
 - D. Standing**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What belongs on a properly labeled specimen?

- A. Color of blood
- B. Initials only
- C. Patient info, date, time of draw, initials**
- D. Results

The proper labeling of a specimen is essential for ensuring accurate identification and tracking of samples throughout the testing process. A correctly labeled specimen should contain crucial details such as the patient's information, the date and time of the blood draw, and the initials of the person who collected the specimen. This information helps to prevent mix-ups, ensures traceability, and maintains the integrity of the testing process. In contrast, including just the color of blood or initials alone does not provide sufficient information to adequately identify the specimen or the circumstances of its collection. Similarly, while results may be important for reporting, they are not relevant at the time of specimen collection and do not belong on the specimen label. Thus, the correct response emphasizes the comprehensive data required for proper labeling.

2. If you notice petechiae or a hematoma forming during a blood draw, what should you do?

- A. Continue as normal
- B. Consult a colleague
- C. Petechiae: Remove tourniquet; Hematoma: Stop**
- D. Apply more pressure

The correct approach when observing petechiae or a hematoma during a blood draw is to address each condition appropriately to ensure patient safety and comfort. In the case of petechiae, these small red or purple spots indicate that small blood vessels are bleeding into the skin, often due to the prolonged application of a tourniquet. In this situation, removing the tourniquet is crucial as it helps to alleviate the pressure on the blood vessels and prevents further bleeding. When a hematoma starts to form, which is a larger accumulation of blood outside of the vessels due to ruptured blood vessels, stopping the blood draw immediately is necessary. Continuing the procedure could lead to more extensive bruising and discomfort for the patient. Instead, applying pressure to the site after stopping the draw can minimize further bleeding after the needle is removed. Thus, the highlighted response addresses both conditions succinctly, prioritizing the patient's well-being during the blood collection process.

3. What are the signs of an allergic reaction during venipuncture?

- A. Swelling and redness only
- B. Hives, itching, swelling, or difficulty breathing**
- C. Dizziness and headache
- D. Fever and chills

An allergic reaction during venipuncture is characterized by symptoms that indicate the body's immune response to a substance it deems harmful. Hives, itching, swelling, and difficulty breathing are common signs of an allergic response. Hives (urticaria) can appear as raised, red welts on the skin, while itching often accompanies these welts. Swelling may occur in localized areas or more generalized regions of the body, depending on the severity of the reaction. Difficulty breathing is particularly concerning, as it can indicate a serious allergic response known as anaphylaxis, which requires immediate medical attention. In contrast, other options describe symptoms that do not specifically align with allergic reactions. Swelling and redness alone may occur due to localized irritation or injury unrelated to an allergic response. Dizziness and headache can result from factors such as anxiety, dehydration, or vasovagal responses but are not direct indicators of an allergy. Fever and chills typically signal infection or illness, rather than an allergic reaction. Thus, the comprehensive signs listed in the correct choice provide a clearer indication of what to observe for an allergic reaction during venipuncture.

4. What color tube is used for a CBC?

- A. Brown
- B. Red
- C. Blue
- D. Lavender**

The correct answer is D. Lavender tubes are used for a complete blood count (CBC) because they contain the anticoagulant EDTA, which helps preserve the blood sample by preventing it from clotting. This allows for an accurate count of different blood cell types present in the sample. Brown tubes (option A) are typically used for testing blood samples for trace element analysis, such as lead or copper levels. Red tubes (option B) are often used for serum testing, where the blood is allowed to clot and the serum is separated from the clotted blood cells. Blue tubes (option C) usually contain citrate and are used for coagulation studies.

5. For a RED tube, what test is typically run, which anticoagulant is used, and to which lab section is it sent?
- A. Stat chemistry, sodium heparin, chemistry
 - B. Blood typing, none, blood bank**
 - C. Cardiac, lithium heparin, chemistry
 - D. CBC, EDTA, hematology

The correct answer is the one that identifies the primary use of the red tube, which is typically used for blood typing. Red tubes do not contain any anticoagulant, as they are designed to collect serum. This is crucial when blood is needed for serological tests, such as blood typing or crossmatching in the blood bank. The absence of an anticoagulant in the red tube allows the blood sample to clot, enabling the serum to be separated from the cellular components after centrifugation, which is essential for various tests, particularly in the blood bank. This separation process is fundamental for accurate testing in immunohematology, where the identification of blood types is critical for transfusions. Other choices incorrectly associate the red tube with tests or anticoagulants that do not apply. For example, the red tube does not contain anticoagulants and is not used for cardiac tests, a complete blood count (CBC), or stat chemistry tests which typically require different types of tubes with specific additives.

6. What chemical additive is in a red tube?
- A. Lithium Heparin
 - B. Sodium Citrate
 - C. Silicone**
 - D. Sodium Heparin

The correct choice related to the chemical additive in a red tube is actually not Silicone, as red-top tubes are typically used for serum collection and do not have any additive. They are designed to clot the blood, allowing the serum to be separated after centrifugation. Lithium Heparin is an anticoagulant found in green-topped tubes, and Sodium Citrate is used in light blue-topped tubes for coagulation studies. Sodium Heparin is typically paired with green tubes as well. Thus, the presence of a specific chemical additive is why the red tube is known for its role in serum collection rather than containing any of the additives listed in the alternatives. In summary, the red tube is characterized by the absence of additives, which promotes the clotting of blood for serum analysis.

7. What are the three patient identifiers?
- A. Date, time, location
 - B. First name, last name, date of birth
 - C. First name, last name, last 4 number of SS, DOB**
 - D. Insurance details

The correct answer is C. First name, last name, last 4 numbers of Social Security (SS), and date of birth are the three patient identifiers required to accurately identify a patient before a phlebotomy procedure. These identifiers ensure that the correct patient is receiving the correct medical treatment or procedure. Options A, B, and D do not encompass the three essential patient identifiers needed for proper patient identification in a healthcare setting.

8. What is the difference between plasma and serum?

- A. Serum contains more nutrients than plasma
- B. Plasma has clotting factors; serum is plasma without clotting factors**
- C. There is no difference; they are interchangeable
- D. Plasma is thicker than serum

The correct answer highlights a fundamental distinction in the composition of plasma and serum. Plasma is the liquid component of blood that contains clotting factors, such as fibrinogen, along with other components like electrolytes, nutrients, hormones, and waste products. When blood clots, the clotting factors are consumed during the coagulation process, resulting in serum, which is essentially plasma devoid of these factors. This key difference is critical for understanding blood analysis and laboratory procedures, as serum is often used in various tests where the presence of clotting factors would interfere with the results. The other options present misconceptions. One states that serum contains more nutrients than plasma, which is not accurate, as plasma typically has a higher concentration of various nutrients, given its role in transporting them. Another option claims there is no difference between the two; however, their definitions and functions in laboratory practices are distinctly different. Lastly, describing plasma as being thicker than serum is misleading because thickness can depend on other factors, such as temperature and viscosity, and this is not a typical way to differentiate between the two components. Understanding this distinction between plasma and serum is essential for phlebotomy technicians, especially when preparing samples for testing.

9. What color tube is used for an A1C?

- A. Red
- B. Green
- C. Yellow
- D. Lavender**

The correct choice for the color tube used for an A1C test is the lavender tube. This tube contains EDTA, an anticoagulant that helps prevent blood from clotting. The A1C test, which measures the average blood glucose levels over the past two to three months, requires whole blood for accurate results, making the lavender tube an appropriate choice. The EDTA in this tube preserves the blood sample and allows for reliable testing of hemoglobin A1C. Other color tubes serve different purposes: the red tube generally does not contain any additives and is used for serum testing, the green tube contains heparin which is used for tests requiring plasma, and the yellow tube typically has either a citrate or a serum separator for various types of tests. Thus, none of these options are suitable for an A1C test, making the lavender tube the ideal candidate.

10. What position should a person be placed in if they have a history of fainting?

- A. Sitting**
- B. Prone**
- C. Supine**
- D. Standing**

The correct position for a person with a history of fainting is supine, which means lying flat on their back. This position is the safest as it promotes blood flow to the brain and can help prevent any potential injuries that might result from fainting, such as falls. When a person is lying down, especially if they feel lightheaded or dizzy, gravity aids in maintaining blood circulation to vital organs, reducing the likelihood of loss of consciousness. While sitting can be beneficial, especially if a patient feels faint, it may not be as secure as lying completely flat in a supine position, where the risk of injury is minimized. The prone position, or lying face down, is generally not suitable for someone who might faint, as it can hinder breathing and make it difficult for them to react or seek assistance. Standing is the least advisable position, as it is the most likely to lead to a fainting episode if the person feels unwell.

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://certifiedphlebotomytechnician.examzify.com>

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