

DaVita Patient Care Technician (PCT) 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 intervention is required if a dialysis patient shows symptoms of infection at the access site?**
 - A. Continue monitoring without intervention**
 - B. Clean the site and change the dressing**
 - C. Notify the physician and prepare for treatment**
 - D. Document the findings and monitor the patient**
- 2. What is the risk of performing a procedure "your way" instead of following DaVita's Policies and Procedures?**
 - A. It enhances the quality of patient care**
 - B. It can lead to civil liability if there is an adverse patient outcome**
 - C. It is always acceptable as long as the results are satisfactory**
 - D. It is not a concern as long as you have good intentions**
- 3. Which hormone is NOT among the endocrine functions of the kidneys?**
 - A. Erythropoietin**
 - B. Insulin**
 - C. Renin**
 - D. Activation of vitamin D**
- 4. What action should be taken if a patient experiences a severe seizure during dialysis treatment?**
 - A. Continue the treatment as planned**
 - B. Discontinue the treatment and monitor the patient**
 - C. Administer medication and resume treatment**
 - D. Give fluids and wait for the patient to respond**
- 5. If your facility dialyzes Hepatitis B positive patients, which assignment would NOT be appropriate?**
 - A. Caring for HBsAg positive and Hepatitis B susceptible patients at the same time**
 - B. Caring for HBsAg negative patients**
 - C. Caring for Hepatitis C positive patients**
 - D. Caring for patients requiring general dialysis**

- 6. If a nephrologist prescribes a 400 BFR for a patient, what else would you expect to find in the physician's order?**
- A. A 14 gauge needle**
 - B. A 15 gauge needle for the prescribed BFR**
 - C. A detailed explanation of the BFR**
 - D. No additional information required**
- 7. What should a PCT observe in a patient during dialysis treatment?**
- A. Only blood pressure changes**
 - B. Overall patient response, including vital signs and comfort level**
 - C. Only the access site condition**
 - D. Only fluid intake**
- 8. What is an important aspect of patient mobility assistance?**
- A. Restricting all movement**
 - B. Using proper body mechanics**
 - C. Ignoring safety protocols**
 - D. Relying solely on patient initiative**
- 9. What action should be taken if a patient exhibits signs of infection during treatment?**
- A. Continue the treatment as usual**
 - B. Notify the nurse and follow protocols**
 - C. Assess the patient and document the findings**
 - D. Administer antibiotics immediately**
- 10. What is the primary role of the PCT during the treatment process?**
- A. Administer medications as needed**
 - B. Monitor patient's condition and provide support**
 - C. Make decisions regarding treatment options**
 - D. Perform surgeries as directed by a physician**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What intervention is required if a dialysis patient shows symptoms of infection at the access site?

- A. Continue monitoring without intervention**
- B. Clean the site and change the dressing**
- C. Notify the physician and prepare for treatment**
- D. Document the findings and monitor the patient**

When a dialysis patient exhibits symptoms of infection at the access site, it is crucial to notify the physician and prepare for treatment promptly. This approach is essential because infections at the access site can lead to serious complications, including systemic infections like sepsis, which can jeopardize the patient's health and treatment. By alerting the physician, the healthcare team can initiate appropriate interventions—such as ordering lab tests, prescribing antibiotics, or deciding on further treatment—to manage the infection effectively. Timely communication is vital in such situations to ensure that the patient receives the necessary care without delay. While monitoring, changing the dressing, or documenting are important aspects of care, they do not adequately address the immediacy of the situation. Infection can escalate quickly, making it imperative to escalate the situation to those with the authority to make medical decisions. Therefore, notifying the physician and preparing for treatment is the most appropriate intervention in response to symptoms of infection at the access site.

2. What is the risk of performing a procedure "your way" instead of following DaVita's Policies and Procedures?

- A. It enhances the quality of patient care**
- B. It can lead to civil liability if there is an adverse patient outcome**
- C. It is always acceptable as long as the results are satisfactory**
- D. It is not a concern as long as you have good intentions**

Choosing to perform a procedure "your way" instead of adhering to DaVita's established Policies and Procedures can significantly increase the risk of civil liability in the event of an adverse patient outcome. Healthcare organizations develop these policies and procedures to ensure the safety and well-being of patients, as well as to comply with applicable laws and regulations. When clinicians deviate from standardized protocols, it creates a potential gap in the quality of care provided. If a patient experiences an adverse outcome due to this deviation, the individual may be held legally responsible under civil liability. This legal framework serves to protect patients and ensures that healthcare providers are accountable for the care they deliver. In practice, following established procedures helps to maintain consistency in patient care, mitigate risks, and ensure that all staff is performing tasks that have been rigorously tested and validated. This is essential not only for safeguarding patient health but also for protecting healthcare professionals from potential legal repercussions. The other choices fail to recognize the importance of established protocols in providing safe, high-quality patient care.

3. Which hormone is NOT among the endocrine functions of the kidneys?

A. Erythropoietin

B. Insulin

C. Renin

D. Activation of vitamin D

Insulin is not produced by the kidneys and is primarily secreted by the pancreas. While the kidneys play a vital role in regulating various hormones and maintaining homeostasis within the body, insulin's absence from the endocrine functions of the kidneys is notable. On the other hand, the kidneys do produce erythropoietin, a hormone that stimulates the production of red blood cells in response to low oxygen levels. They also secrete renin, which is involved in blood pressure regulation and electrolyte balance, and are responsible for the activation of vitamin D into its active form, which helps regulate calcium levels in the body. Thus, the correct answer reflects the primary hormonal functions associated with the kidneys, clearly distinguishing them from insulin, which is not a kidney function.

4. What action should be taken if a patient experiences a severe seizure during dialysis treatment?

A. Continue the treatment as planned

B. Discontinue the treatment and monitor the patient

C. Administer medication and resume treatment

D. Give fluids and wait for the patient to respond

When a patient experiences a severe seizure during dialysis treatment, it is crucial to prioritize their safety and well-being. Discontinuing the treatment allows for immediate assessment of the patient's condition and minimizes the risk of further complications. Monitoring the patient is essential to observe vital signs, neurological response, and any potential injuries that may have occurred during the seizure. This approach ensures that the patient receives appropriate care without the additional stress or risk that continuing the dialysis procedure might pose. Furthermore, this allows for health care providers to be in a better position to intervene appropriately, which may include calling for emergency assistance or providing necessary medical interventions based on the patient's response.

5. If your facility dialyzes Hepatitis B positive patients, which assignment would NOT be appropriate?

A. Caring for HBsAg positive and Hepatitis B susceptible patients at the same time

B. Caring for HBsAg negative patients

C. Caring for Hepatitis C positive patients

D. Caring for patients requiring general dialysis

The assignment that would not be appropriate in a facility dialyzing Hepatitis B positive patients is caring for HBsAg positive and Hepatitis B susceptible patients at the same time. This is due to the risk of cross-contamination and the potential spread of the Hepatitis B virus. Patients who are HBsAg positive are infectious, meaning they can transmit the virus to susceptible individuals who do not have immunity against it. In situations where Hepatitis B positive patients are being treated, strict infection control protocols are necessary to prevent transmission. Therefore, it is critical to separate HBsAg positive patients from those who are susceptible to ensure their safety and minimize the risk of infection. On the other hand, caring for HBsAg negative patients, Hepatitis C positive patients, or patients requiring general dialysis does not carry the same risk as mixing HBsAg positive with susceptible patients. These assignments can be managed with appropriate infection control measures, as they do not present the same immediate risk of transmitting the Hepatitis B virus as mixing positive and susceptible patients would.

6. If a nephrologist prescribes a 400 BFR for a patient, what else would you expect to find in the physician's order?

A. A 14 gauge needle

B. A 15 gauge needle for the prescribed BFR

C. A detailed explanation of the BFR

D. No additional information required

When a nephrologist prescribes a blood flow rate (BFR) of 400, it is important to ensure that the appropriate needle gauge is selected for the prescribed BFR. A blood flow rate of 400 ml/min is relatively high, and a 15 gauge needle is typically required to accommodate this flow effectively. This allows for sufficient blood volume to be extracted and returned to the patient without causing undue stress on the vascular access site. The choice of needle gauge is critical in hemodialysis as it must be compatible with the flow rate to minimize risks such as hemolysis and to ensure that the treatment can be completed within the prescribed time. Using a needle that is too small in diameter may restrict blood flow, potentially leading to complications during the procedure. While other options may mention aspects like detailed explanations or no additional information required, the most relevant factor when a specific BFR is prescribed is confirming that the appropriate equipment, such as the correct gauge of the needle, is used to achieve that flow rate safely and effectively. This practical application is essential for patient care and ensures that the treatment performed aligns with the physician's orders.

7. What should a PCT observe in a patient during dialysis treatment?

- A. Only blood pressure changes**
- B. Overall patient response, including vital signs and comfort level**
- C. Only the access site condition**
- D. Only fluid intake**

During dialysis treatment, it is essential for the Patient Care Technician (PCT) to observe the overall patient response, which includes monitoring vital signs and assessing the patient's comfort level. This comprehensive observation is crucial because it allows the PCT to identify any changes or complications that may arise during treatment. Monitoring vital signs such as blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, and temperature provides important information about the patient's hemodynamic status and can help to detect potential issues such as hypotension, which is common in dialysis patients. Additionally, assessing the patient's comfort level is vital for ensuring that they are physically and emotionally stable throughout the treatment process. By focusing on the overall response of the patient, the PCT can take immediate action if any concerns arise, enhancing patient safety and comfort during dialysis. This holistic approach is critical in providing quality patient care during what can sometimes be a challenging experience for individuals undergoing this treatment.

8. What is an important aspect of patient mobility assistance?

- A. Restricting all movement**
- B. Using proper body mechanics**
- C. Ignoring safety protocols**
- D. Relying solely on patient initiative**

Using proper body mechanics is crucial in patient mobility assistance because it helps prevent injury to both the patient and the caregiver. When caregivers employ correct lifting techniques and ergonomic principles, they can provide support while minimizing strain on their own bodies. This includes bending at the knees rather than at the waist and using the strength of the legs to lift, which is vital in avoiding back injuries. Moreover, proper body mechanics ensures that patients are moved safely and comfortably, reducing the risk of falls or discomfort during transfer. This practice encompasses understanding the physical capabilities of the patient and using appropriate tools and techniques to facilitate movement. Ensuring that mobility assistance is performed safely and efficiently fosters a positive healthcare environment and improves overall patient outcomes.

9. What action should be taken if a patient exhibits signs of infection during treatment?

A. Continue the treatment as usual

B. Notify the nurse and follow protocols

C. Assess the patient and document the findings

D. Administer antibiotics immediately

When a patient exhibits signs of infection during treatment, the most appropriate action is to notify the nurse and follow established protocols. This is crucial because nurses are trained to assess and manage such situations effectively. They can evaluate the severity of the infection, determine if immediate medical intervention is necessary, and decide the next steps based on standardized care protocols. Following protocols is essential in healthcare settings to ensure patient safety and adherence to best practices. This may include monitoring vital signs, obtaining cultures or laboratory tests, and providing the nurse with a comprehensive overview of the patient's condition. By escalating the situation to the nurse, the Patient Care Technician ensures that the patient receives appropriate care that is aligned with the facility's policies, thereby minimizing risk and promoting optimal outcomes.

10. What is the primary role of the PCT during the treatment process?

A. Administer medications as needed

B. Monitor patient's condition and provide support

C. Make decisions regarding treatment options

D. Perform surgeries as directed by a physician

The primary role of the Patient Care Technician (PCT) during the treatment process is to monitor the patient's condition and provide support. This involves observing and recording vital signs, being attentive to the patient's needs, and ensuring that comfort and safety are maintained throughout the treatment. The PCT plays a crucial role in facilitating communication between the patient and the healthcare team, helping to address any concerns that may arise during treatment. Monitoring the patient also means recognizing any changes in their condition and reporting these changes to the nursing staff or relevant medical personnel. This dedication to patient care ensures that any complications or issues can be addressed promptly, contributing to a safer and more effective treatment environment. In contrast to the other options, administering medications should only be performed by licensed personnel, and making decisions regarding treatment options is the responsibility of medical professionals. Performing surgeries is beyond the scope of a PCT's responsibilities, as this requires specialized medical training and qualifications. By focusing on patient monitoring and support, PCTs play a vital role in the overall healthcare team and the well-being of the patients they care for.

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://davitapct.examzify.com>

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