DOMAIN 1A HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS AND SETTINGS PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE

SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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. Which medical specialty is primarily responsible for managing anesthesia and sedation during surgical procedures?

A. Allergists

B. Anesthesiologists

C. Cardiologists

D. Dermatologists

2. Which statement is true about Lean and Six Sigma in healthcare?

A. They are applicable only to manufacturing, not healthcare.

B. They target only patient satisfaction and not costs.

C. They are used to eliminate waste and reduce variation, improving quality and efficiency in clinical and operational workflows.

D. They replace clinical judgment with automated processes.

3. What is DRG-based payment and how does it influence hospital behavior?

A. Hospitals receive a fixed payment per case based on DRG.

B. Hospitals bill monthly for all services.

C. Hospitals receive payment based on length of stay alone.

D. Hospitals are reimbursed per hour of care.

4. Which statement correctly describes episodic funding vs bundled payments?

A. Bundled payments pay for a defined episode of care

B. Episodic funding pays for a defined episode of care; bundled payments consolidate payments across all providers for a single condition or procedure

C. Both concepts are identical

D. Episodic funding applies only to medications

5. Which statement best describes primary care?

A. Primary care focuses on preventive, ongoing care for individuals and families.

B. Secondary care provides specialized care after referral.

C. Tertiary care is highly specialized, complex care in centers of excellence.

D. Secondary care focuses on preventive services.

6. Which providers practice general medicine?

A. Cardiologists

B. General Practitioners (GPs)

C. Dermatologists

D. Anesthesiologists

7. How can population health data analytics support targeting of interventions for high-risk groups?

A. They identify risk factors but do not influence resource allocation.

B. They stratify populations without monitoring outcomes.

C. They monitor outcomes and guide decisions only at the population level (not target high-risk groups).

D. They identify risk factors, stratify populations, monitor outcomes, and guide resource allocation to those most likely to benefit.

8. Which medical specialty treats cancer?

A. Oncologists

B. Orthopedists

C. Obstetricians

D. Psychiatrists

9. Which medical specialty deals with blood and blood-producing organs, including anemia, leukemia, and lymphoma?

A. Allergists

B. Gynecologists

C. Endocrinologists

D. Hematologists

10. Which medical specialty studies the liver, biliary tree, gallbladder, and pancreas?

A. Gastroenterologists

B. Hepatologists

C. Gynecologists

D. Allergists

Answers

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

Explanations

1. Which medical specialty is primarily responsible for managing anesthesia and sedation during surgical procedures?

A. Allergists

B. Anesthesiologists

C. Cardiologists

D. Dermatologists

Anesthesia management during surgery is handled by the specialty of anesthesiology. Anesthesiologists plan which type of anesthesia to use (general, regional, or sedation), administer the anesthesia, and continuously monitor the patient's airway, breathing, circulation, and level of consciousness throughout the procedure. They adjust the depth of anesthesia, manage pain control, and watch for and respond to any complications that arise, ensuring the patient remains safe during and after the operation. The other specialties focus on different areas: allergists deal with allergic reactions and sensitivities, cardiologists manage heart-related conditions, and dermatologists treat skin issues. While some of these conditions can influence anesthesia planning, they are not the primary providers responsible for administering anesthesia and sedation during surgery.

2. Which statement is true about Lean and Six Sigma in healthcare?

A. They are applicable only to manufacturing, not healthcare.

B. They target only patient satisfaction and not costs.

C. They are used to eliminate waste and reduce variation, improving quality and efficiency in clinical and operational workflows.

D. They replace clinical judgment with automated processes.

Lean and Six Sigma focus on improving how work gets done by removing waste and reducing variation, with the goal of delivering safer, faster, and more reliable care. In healthcare, this means applying systematic, data-driven methods to both clinical and operational processes—things like patient flow, scheduling, handoffs, medication administration, and lab turnaround times. By eliminating non-value-added steps (Lean) and tightening process variation (Six Sigma), organizations can improve quality, safety, and patient outcomes while also lowering costs and improving efficiency. These approaches are not limited to manufacturing; they're widely used in healthcare to support better decisions and standardized, reliable processes. They also supplement clinical judgment rather than replace it—the clinicians still decide what care is appropriate, but the pathways and workflows that deliver that care become more predictable and less prone to error. The statement best capturing this is that Lean and Six Sigma are used to eliminate waste and reduce variation, improving quality and efficiency in clinical and operational workflows.

3. What is DRG-based payment and how does it influence hospital behavior?

A. Hospitals receive a fixed payment per case based on DRG.

B. Hospitals bill monthly for all services.

C. Hospitals receive payment based on length of stay alone.

D. Hospitals are reimbursed per hour of care.

DRG-based payment is a prospective system where a hospital receives a predetermined, fixed amount for each patient case, with the amount determined by the assigned diagnosis-related group. This means the payment is set in advance based on the patient's DRG (and adjusted for factors like severity and local costs), rather than being based on the actual services provided, length of stay, or time spent with the patient. Because the payment per case is fixed, hospitals have a strong incentive to use resources efficiently, minimize unnecessary services, and discharge patients when it is safe to do so. If actual costs to treat the patient are higher than the DRG payment, the hospital absorbs the loss; if costs are lower, the hospital benefits. This shifts financial risk to the hospital and encourages standardization of care pathways. The other options don't fit because monthly billing is not how DRGs work, payment isn't based on length of stay alone, and reimbursement isn't determined per hour of care.

4. Which statement correctly describes episodic funding vs bundled payments?

A. Bundled payments pay for a defined episode of care

B. Episodic funding pays for a defined episode of care; bundled payments consolidate payments across all providers for a single condition or procedure

C. Both concepts are identical

D. Episodic funding applies only to medications

The idea being tested is how payment arrangements define how care is financed across time and providers. Episodic funding pays for a defined episode of care—covering all needed services for a specific condition or event within a set time frame, usually to a single payer or provider. Bundled payments, by contrast, provide one comprehensive payment that covers all the care for a single condition or procedure across all providers involved in that episode, aligning incentives across the care team. So, episodic funding is about paying for the whole episode, while bundled payments consolidate payment across multiple providers for that same episode. For a hip replacement, episodic funding would reimburse the episode of care as a defined event, whereas bundled payments would set one payment to cover all services across hospital, surgeon, anesthesia, and post-acute care.

5. Which statement best describes primary care?

A. Primary care focuses on preventive, ongoing care for individuals and families.

B. Secondary care provides specialized care after referral.

C. Tertiary care is highly specialized, complex care in centers of excellence.

D. Secondary care focuses on preventive services.

Primary care is the first point of contact in the health system and provides ongoing, comprehensive care for individuals and families. It emphasizes prevention and health maintenance across the lifespan, addressing common illnesses, managing chronic conditions, and promoting wellness. A primary care clinician builds a continuous relationship with patients, coordinating care with specialists when needed and drawing on community resources to keep people healthy. This makes sense because primary care is characterized by its preventive focus, its broad scope, and its ongoing, person-centered approach rather than only treating problems after they arise or referring quickly to highly specialized services. The other statements describe stages of care that are not primary care: secondary care involves specialized services after a referral, and tertiary care is highly specialized, complex care in specialized centers; preventive services are a hallmark of primary care, not secondary care.

6. Which providers practice general medicine?

A. Cardiologists

B. General Practitioners (GPs)

C. Dermatologists

D. Anesthesiologists

General medicine focuses on broad, first-contact medical care for a wide range of health issues, with an emphasis on overall health, preventive care, and coordinating care across specialties. Providers trained in general medicine—often called general practitioners or family physicians—see patients for routine checkups, common illnesses, chronic disease management, vaccines, and health maintenance, then refer to specialists when a problem falls outside their scope. This broad scope distinguishes them from specialists who concentrate on a single area. For example, a cardiologist focuses on heart conditions, a dermatologist on skin disorders, and an anesthesiologist on anesthesia and perioperative care. That broader, continuous care across many conditions is why General Practitioners practice general medicine.

7. How can population health data analytics support targeting of interventions for high-risk groups?

A. They identify risk factors but do not influence resource allocation.

B. They stratify populations without monitoring outcomes.

C. They monitor outcomes and guide decisions only at the population level (not target high-risk groups).

D. They identify risk factors, stratify populations, monitor outcomes, and guide resource allocation to those most likely to benefit.

Population health data analytics integrates clinical data, claims, and social determinants to identify who is most at risk and why. By pinpointing risk factors, we can flag individuals with a higher likelihood of adverse outcomes. Stratifying the population creates risk tiers so the most vulnerable receive attention first. Continuously monitoring outcomes shows whether the targeted interventions are actually making a difference for those groups, allowing adjustments in real time. All of these pieces come together to guide resource allocation toward those most likely to benefit, making interventions more effective and efficient. For example, predicting high readmission risk enables targeted post-discharge support, and tracking outcomes confirms whether that support reduces readmissions, justifying expansion to other high-risk groups. The other approaches fall short because they focus on risk identification, or stratification, or outcome monitoring in isolation, without tying them directly to directing resources to the people who would benefit most.

8. Which medical specialty treats cancer?

A. Oncologists

B. Orthopedists

C. Obstetricians

D. Psychiatrists

Oncologists are the medical specialists who treat cancer, handling diagnosis, staging, and the overall treatment plan. They coordinate systemic therapies such as chemotherapy, targeted therapies, and immunotherapy, and work with radiotherapy and surgical oncologists as part of a team to tailor care to the patient. They also manage treatment side effects and provide palliative and survivorship care as needed. Other listed specialties focus on different areas—orthopedists on bones and joints, obstetricians on pregnancy, and psychiatrists on mental health—so they are not the primary providers for cancer care.

9. Which medical specialty deals with blood and blood-producing organs, including anemia, leukemia, and lymphoma?

A. Allergists

B. Gynecologists

C. Endocrinologists

D. Hematologists

The main idea tested is the medical field that concentrates on blood and its forming organs, along with diseases that affect them. Hematology is the specialty that handles conditions like anemia, leukemia, and lymphoma. Anemia involves too few or dysfunctional red blood cells, leading to fatigue and weakness. Leukemia is cancer of the blood-forming tissues, producing abnormal white blood cells. Lymphoma is cancer of the lymphatic system, which is closely tied to blood and immune function. A hematologist diagnoses these conditions and treats them with approaches such as chemotherapy, transfusions, targeted therapies, and bone marrow or stem cell transplantation, often coordinating comprehensive care for blood-related health issues. Other specialties focus on different systems—Allergists study allergies and immune responses; Gynecologists address female reproductive health; Endocrinologists treat hormonal disorders—so they don't specialize in blood diseases.

10. Which medical specialty studies the liver, biliary tree, gallbladder, and pancreas?

A. Gastroenterologists

B. Hepatologists

C. Gynecologists

D. Allergists

The key idea is understanding which medical specialty focuses on the hepatobiliary system. The hepatobiliary system includes the liver, bile ducts, gallbladder, and often related pancreatic conditions. A hepatologist is a physician who specializes in diseases of the liver and the biliary tract, and their training covers disorders of the gallbladder and bile ducts as well as various pancreatic issues that intersect with liver disease. While gastroenterologists handle a broad range of digestive tract problems, hepatology is the subspecialty specifically dedicated to the liver and its associated biliary organs, making it the best fit for studying these structures. The other specialties listed focus on unrelated areas (gynecology on female reproductive health and allergology on allergies).

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:

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