

# FMC Patient Care Technician (PCT) Practice Test (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**

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- 1. What is the primary purpose of the blood pump in hemodialysis?**
  - A. To provide nutrients**
  - B. To maintain blood pressure**
  - C. To circulate blood through the dialyzer**
  - D. To cool the blood**
  
- 2. What should a PCT do if they make an error while providing care?**
  - A. Avoid reporting the error to prevent issues**
  - B. Immediately report the error to their supervisor**
  - C. Wait until the next shift to address the error**
  - D. Document the error in the patient's chart only**
  
- 3. What is the purpose of using a sharps container in a treatment facility?**
  - A. To reduce waste**
  - B. To safely dispose of used needles**
  - C. To minimize costs**
  - D. To contain all medical waste**
  
- 4. What should a PCT prioritize when assessing a patient's condition?**
  - A. Filling out administrative paperwork**
  - B. Changes in vital signs and overall appearance**
  - C. Casually chatting about non-medical topics**
  - D. Deciding based on previous patients' conditions**
  
- 5. What is a critical action for a PCT if they encounter a patient in pain?**
  - A. To document it but take no further action**
  - B. To ensure immediate pain relief through medication**
  - C. To communicate the pain level to the healthcare team**
  - D. To instruct the patient to remain quiet**

**6. What could cause air to enter the blood lines and dialyzer?**

- A. Double clamped saline line**
- B. Clots in the venous chamber**
- C. Tight connection between needles and bloodlines**
- D. Low arterial chamber level**

**7. What is defined as a measurement of how well a solution is able to carry an electrical charge?**

- A. Conductivity**
- B. Viscosity**
- C. Osmolarity**
- D. Capacitance**

**8. Dialysate with high conductivity will cause \_\_\_\_\_ and low conductivity will cause \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. Crenation, hemolysis**
- B. Hemolysis, crenation**
- C. Citation, filtration**
- D. Fluid retention, blood clots**

**9. What should a PCT do if a patient refuses treatment?**

- A. Convince the patient to accept treatment**
- B. Respect the patient's decision and document it**
- C. Dismiss the patient's concerns**
- D. Ignore the refusal if it's not critical**

**10. Which of the following statements about sharps containers is true?**

- A. They do not require a lid**
- B. Unused needles do not have to be placed in a sharps container**
- C. They can be shaken to condense content**
- D. They should be emptied when they are 2/3 to 3/4 full**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. What is the primary purpose of the blood pump in hemodialysis?

- A. To provide nutrients
- B. To maintain blood pressure
- C. To circulate blood through the dialyzer**
- D. To cool the blood

The primary purpose of the blood pump in hemodialysis is to circulate blood through the dialyzer. This process is crucial for the effectiveness of hemodialysis, as it ensures that the patient's blood is continuously moved from the body into the dialyzer, where it is filtered to remove waste products and excess fluids. The blood pump helps maintain a steady flow rate, allowing the dialyzer to function properly by exposing the blood to the dialysis membrane, where the exchange of toxins and electrolytes occurs. In hemodialysis, proper circulation of blood is necessary to ensure efficient treatment, as stagnant blood can lead to complications. By effectively managing the flow, the blood pump contributes to the overall success of the dialysis process, providing patients with the therapeutic benefits they require to manage their kidney failure.

## 2. What should a PCT do if they make an error while providing care?

- A. Avoid reporting the error to prevent issues
- B. Immediately report the error to their supervisor**
- C. Wait until the next shift to address the error
- D. Document the error in the patient's chart only

When a Patient Care Technician (PCT) makes an error while providing care, it is vital to immediately report the error to their supervisor. This is crucial for several reasons. First and foremost, reporting allows for a prompt response to the situation, which can help mitigate any potential harm to the patient. Timely communication ensures that the care team can assess the impact of the mistake and take appropriate measures, whether that involves additional treatment, monitoring, or other interventions. Moreover, reporting errors contributes to a culture of safety and accountability within healthcare settings. Fostering an environment where mistakes are openly discussed leads to better learning opportunities and enhancements in care processes, ultimately improving patient safety and quality of care. Additionally, regulatory and ethical standards in healthcare emphasize the importance of transparency and accountability when it comes to patient care. Taking corrective action, as part of the reporting process, also demonstrates professionalism and a commitment to patient welfare. Failing to report an error can lead to serious consequences for the patient and the PCT, impacting trust between patients and caregivers, and potentially leading to further errors or complications in care. In essence, immediate reporting aligns with best practices in patient safety and supports a proactive approach to healthcare, ensuring that errors are handled effectively and responsibly.

### 3. What is the purpose of using a sharps container in a treatment facility?

- A. To reduce waste
- B. To safely dispose of used needles**
- C. To minimize costs
- D. To contain all medical waste

The purpose of using a sharps container in a treatment facility is primarily to safely dispose of used needles. These containers are specifically designed to protect healthcare workers and others from potential injuries caused by sharp objects, such as needles and blades. By having a designated, puncture-resistant container that is clearly labeled for sharps disposal, treatment facilities ensure that these hazardous items are disposed of safely and appropriately, minimizing the risk of needle-stick injuries. The design of sharps containers includes features that help prevent accidental exposure, such as a secure lid and the ability to close the container once it is full. This is crucial in healthcare settings where there is an increased risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens. Proper disposal of sharps is not only a matter of safety; it is also a legal requirement in many jurisdictions to ensure public health and safety. Using sharps containers does not primarily aim to reduce waste, minimize costs, or contain all types of medical waste. While it may contribute to overall waste management efforts and cost effectiveness, the key focus remains on the safe handling and disposal of needles and other sharps to protect individuals in the healthcare environment.

### 4. What should a PCT prioritize when assessing a patient's condition?

- A. Filling out administrative paperwork
- B. Changes in vital signs and overall appearance**
- C. Casually chatting about non-medical topics
- D. Deciding based on previous patients' conditions

Prioritizing changes in vital signs and overall appearance is essential for a Patient Care Technician as it directly relates to the patient's current health status and any potential changes in their medical condition. Vital signs—such as heart rate, blood pressure, respiratory rate, and temperature—provide critical insights into the patient's physiological state and can indicate whether there is an immediate need for medical attention. Overall appearance, including the patient's level of consciousness, mobility, and any signs of distress, can also reveal important information about their health. For instance, if a patient appears unusually pale, diaphoretic (sweaty), or is in pain, it may signal a deterioration in their condition that requires prompt intervention. Careful observation and assessment of these factors form the basis for further actions or interventions needed to support the patient, ensuring they receive the most appropriate care and monitoring.

## 5. What is a critical action for a PCT if they encounter a patient in pain?

- A. To document it but take no further action**
- B. To ensure immediate pain relief through medication**
- C. To communicate the pain level to the healthcare team**
- D. To instruct the patient to remain quiet**

In the context of patient care, when a Patient Care Technician (PCT) encounters a patient in pain, communicating the pain level to the healthcare team is a critical action. This step is essential because it ensures that the patient's discomfort is addressed appropriately by the medical professionals who have the authority to provide treatment or medication. Recording the patient's pain level gives the healthcare team essential information that can influence their decision-making and treatment plan. Pain management often requires a collaborative approach involving physicians, nurses, and other healthcare providers. Thus, the PCT's role in relaying this information is vital for ensuring that the patient receives timely assessment and intervention for their pain. While providing immediate pain relief through medication is a significant aspect of patient care, it is typically beyond the scope of a PCT's responsibilities to administer medication. Additionally, instructing the patient to remain quiet does not address the patient's needs and can lead to feelings of neglect or frustration. Simply documenting the pain without further communication would not effectively contribute to the management of the patient's health and well-being.

## 6. What could cause air to enter the blood lines and dialyzer?

- A. Double clamped saline line**
- B. Clots in the venous chamber**
- C. Tight connection between needles and bloodlines**
- D. Low arterial chamber level**

Air entering the blood lines and dialyzer during dialysis can occur due to various factors affecting the connection and flow of blood. A low arterial chamber level is indeed a critical factor in this context. When the arterial chamber level is low, there is an increased risk of negative pressure being created within the system. This negative pressure can pull air into the blood lines and, subsequently, into the dialyzer, leading to air embolism, which is a serious complication. While other options may be relevant in different scenarios, they do not directly lead to the introduction of air into the system in the same manner. For example, a double clamped saline line might impact fluid delivery but wouldn't typically create a vacuum that would draw air in. Clots in the venous chamber could obstruct blood flow, but they would not actively introduce air into the lines. Lastly, if there is a tight connection between needles and bloodlines, this would generally prevent air from entering rather than allow it. Thus, understanding the mechanics of arterial chamber levels is crucial for maintaining a safe and effective dialysis process.

**7. What is defined as a measurement of how well a solution is able to carry an electrical charge?**

**A. Conductivity**

**B. Viscosity**

**C. Osmolarity**

**D. Capacitance**

The correct answer is conductivity, which specifically refers to the ability of a solution to conduct electricity. This property is significant in various fields, especially in chemistry and environmental science, as it indicates the presence and concentration of ions in the solution. These ions act as charge carriers, allowing the flow of electric current.

Conductivity is influenced by factors such as temperature and the concentration of dissolved electrolytes. Therefore, measuring conductivity can provide important information about the ionic composition of the solution, as well as its overall quality, particularly in applications involving water treatment, electrolyte balance, and biological systems. The other terms refer to different scientific concepts. Viscosity relates to the thickness or resistance to flow of a fluid. Osmolarity is a measure of concentration that reflects the total number of solute particles in a solution and its effect on the movement of water. Capacitance, on the other hand, pertains to an electrical component's ability to store an electrical charge, rather than the ability of a solution to do so. Understanding these distinctions highlights why conductivity is the accurate answer in this context.

**8. Dialysate with high conductivity will cause \_\_\_\_\_ and low conductivity will cause \_\_\_\_\_.**

**A. Crenation, hemolysis**

**B. Hemolysis, crenation**

**C. Citation, filtration**

**D. Fluid retention, blood clots**

Dialysate with high conductivity typically indicates a higher concentration of solutes, such as electrolytes, which can lead to a hypertonic environment when it interacts with red blood cells. This hypertonic solution draws water out of the cells, resulting in crenation, which is the process of cell shrinkage and distortion. Hence, high conductivity of dialysate causes crenation. On the other hand, low conductivity in dialysate suggests a lower concentration of solutes, creating a hypotonic environment. In this situation, water will move into the red blood cells, leading to swelling and possibly hemolysis, which is the rupture of the cells. Therefore, low conductivity in the dialysate aligns with hemolysis. This reasoning clarifies why the correct answer accurately describes the physiological responses of red blood cells to varying conductivity levels of dialysate.

## 9. What should a PCT do if a patient refuses treatment?

- A. Convince the patient to accept treatment**
- B. Respect the patient's decision and document it**
- C. Dismiss the patient's concerns**
- D. Ignore the refusal if it's not critical**

When a patient refuses treatment, it is essential for a Patient Care Technician (PCT) to respect the patient's decision. This respect for autonomy is a fundamental principle in healthcare, acknowledging that patients have the right to make informed choices about their own bodies and treatment options. Allowing patients to exercise their rights reinforces trust in the healthcare relationship and promotes shared decision-making. Documenting the refusal is equally important. Accurate documentation serves multiple purposes: it records the patient's decision for future reference, provides legal protection for healthcare providers, and helps ensure continuity of care by informing other members of the healthcare team about the patient's wishes. Such documentation is crucial to safeguard the best interests of the patient while respecting their decisions. This approach facilitates open communication and can lead to further discussions about the treatment options if necessary, without undermining the patient's agency. The other options do not align with best practices in patient-centered care, as convincing a patient disregards their autonomy, dismissing their concerns can lead to feelings of distrust, and ignoring the refusal does not adequately address the patient's rights and needs in a responsible manner.

## 10. Which of the following statements about sharps containers is true?

- A. They do not require a lid**
- B. Unused needles do not have to be placed in a sharps container**
- C. They can be shaken to condense content**
- D. They should be emptied when they are 2/3 to 3/4 full**

The statement that sharps containers should be emptied when they are 2/3 to 3/4 full is accurate because this guideline ensures safe handling and reduces the risk of overfilling. When a sharps container reaches this fullness level, it is crucial to empty it to maintain a safe and manageable environment. Overfilled containers increase the risk of accidental needle stick injuries when items are added or when the container is disposed of, highlighting the importance of adhering to this guideline for safety in healthcare settings. Properly managing sharps containers is essential in infection control and maintaining a safe working environment for all healthcare personnel.

# 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://fmcpatientcaretech.examzify.com>**

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

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