

Health Care Ethics 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. During the H1N1 pandemic, which entity managed the supply of vaccines?**
 - A. They made sure vaccines were available for each person who wanted it.**
 - B. The supply of vaccinations available was managed by the Food and Drug Administration.**
 - C. The Centers for Disease Control quarantined all exposed people.**
 - D. The Food and Drug Administration required all U.S. pharmaceutical companies to develop vaccines.**

- 2. In cloning debates, the ethical principle most closely tied to issues of self-determination is ____.**
 - A. Beneficence**
 - B. Justice**
 - C. Autonomy**
 - D. Nonmaleficence**

- 3. Which term refers to ethical theories that evaluate actions by their consequences?**
 - A. Deontology**
 - B. Teleology**
 - C. Virtue ethics**
 - D. Egoism**

- 4. Ethics theories that base their decisions on consequences are _____ theories.**
 - A. Teleological**
 - B. Deontological**
 - C. Virtue ethics**
 - D. Ethical egoism**

- 5. In ethics discussions, which principle is most associated with fair distribution of scarce medical resources?**
 - A. Autonomy**
 - B. Justice**
 - C. Beneficence**
 - D. Nonmaleficence**

- 6. Which statement best describes a barrier to service access for a low-income domestic violence survivor?**
- A. The healthcare system does not provide mental health services.**
 - B. The choices for this woman are lacking.**
 - C. The system does not pay for those services.**
 - D. The woman does not want the services suggested.**
- 7. Which statement best explains why the ethic-of-care model is a natural fit for the nursing profession?**
- A. It aligns because nursing emphasizes the do-no-harm standard in decisions.**
 - B. Nurses must make ethical decisions quickly in emergencies.**
 - C. The model is primarily focused on institutional policy.**
 - D. The profession is dominated by women, who naturally make decisions in the same way the model does.**
- 8. The Rawlsian _____ stresses that policy should improve the conditions for the worst off in a society.**
- A. Veil of ignorance**
 - B. Maximin principle**
 - C. Pareto efficiency**
 - D. Difference principle**
- 9. Which statement describes the amount of inequity depends on the most?**
- A. The choice of the comparison group**
 - B. The total population's average**
 - C. The best-off versus the worst-off**
 - D. The independently defined target rate**
- 10. Which ethics model focuses on the ethical significance of storytelling and patient narratives in care decisions?**
- A. Virtue**
 - B. Narrative ethics**
 - C. Principalism**
 - D. Ethic-of-care**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. During the H1N1 pandemic, which entity managed the supply of vaccines?
 - A. They made sure vaccines were available for each person who wanted it.
 - B. The supply of vaccinations available was managed by the Food and Drug Administration.**
 - C. The Centers for Disease Control quarantined all exposed people.
 - D. The Food and Drug Administration required all U.S. pharmaceutical companies to develop vaccines.

During a pandemic, the key issue is which agency ensures that vaccines can be produced, approved, and offered for use. The Food and Drug Administration plays that central role by reviewing data on safety, effectiveness, and quality; licensing manufacturers; and supervising manufacturing practices. This regulatory framework allows vaccines to be produced and enter the supply chain, enabling distribution through health systems and immunization programs. In other words, the FDA's oversight makes the vaccine supply possible by ensuring what is being produced is safe and manufactured to standard. The other options misstate roles: guaranteeing access for everyone ignores real-world supply limits; quarantining exposed people is a containment measure, not supply management; and the FDA does not compel all companies to develop vaccines.

2. In cloning debates, the ethical principle most closely tied to issues of self-determination is ____.
 - A. Beneficence
 - B. Justice
 - C. Autonomy**
 - D. Nonmaleficence

Autonomy centers on self-determination and the right of individuals to make informed choices about their own bodies and genetic material. In cloning debates, this principle best captures the ethical emphasis on who gets to decide about creating a being through cloning, including issues of consent from donors and the future person's own ability to determine life choices. Beneficence and nonmaleficence focus on doing good or avoiding harm, while justice concerns fairness and distribution; none of these directly address personal decision-making and control over one's genetic destiny in the same way autonomy does.

3. Which term refers to ethical theories that evaluate actions by their consequences?

- A. Deontology**
- B. Teleology**
- C. Virtue ethics**
- D. Egoism**

Evaluating actions by their consequences is teleology. In teleological ethics, the morality of an act is judged by the results it produces—the ends justify the means in terms of overall good outcomes. This contrasts with other frameworks: deontology bases rightness on adherence to duties or rules, regardless of outcomes; virtue ethics centers on whether an action reflects virtuous character; and egoism evaluates actions by what best serves one's own interests, i.e., personal outcomes. So the emphasis on outcomes as the determinant of moral worth is what makes teleology the correct label.

4. Ethics theories that base their decisions on consequences are _____ theories.

- A. Teleological**
- B. Deontological**
- C. Virtue ethics**
- D. Ethical egoism**

In many ethical theories, what matters is the outcome of an action. That focus on consequences is what teleological theories emphasize: right and wrong are determined by the results of an action. Deontological theories, by contrast, judge morality by adherence to duties or rules rather than outcomes. Virtue ethics centers on the character and virtues of the person performing the action, not its consequences. Ethical egoism considers consequences in terms of the self's interests, and while it is outcome-focused, the broader category that captures all theories judging actions by their results is teleological. So the best fit for theories that base decisions on consequences is teleological.

5. In ethics discussions, which principle is most associated with fair distribution of scarce medical resources?

- A. Autonomy**
- B. Justice**
- C. Beneficence**
- D. Nonmaleficence**

Fair distribution of scarce medical resources is governed by justice, specifically distributive justice—the obligation to allocate benefits and burdens in a way that is fair and equitable across people. In practice, this means using transparent, consistent criteria to decide who gets limited resources like ICU beds, organs, or vaccines, taking into account factors such as medical need, urgency, and the likelihood of benefit, while avoiding discrimination. The aim is to treat equals equally and to balance competing needs within the community, rather than focusing on an individual's rights or on doing good or avoiding harm to a single patient. Autonomy centers on respecting individual choices; beneficence focuses on acting in the patient's best interest; nonmaleficence is about avoiding harm. Those principles are important, but they address different ethical concerns than the fairness of distributing scarce resources across populations.

6. Which statement best describes a barrier to service access for a low-income domestic violence survivor?

- A. The healthcare system does not provide mental health services.**
- B. The choices for this woman are lacking.**
- C. The system does not pay for those services.**
- D. The woman does not want the services suggested.**

Access barriers for low-income domestic violence survivors come from having limited or unsuitable options within the service network. Even when services exist, the options may be scarce, ill-suited, or hard to access due to factors like cost, location, eligibility rules, transportation, childcare needs, or safety and confidentiality concerns. This means the survivor cannot obtain the help she needs because the available choices don't fit her situation, not simply because services are unavailable in principle or because she doesn't want help. If services were universally unavailable or unfunded, that would be a different type of barrier; likewise, assuming she doesn't want help shifts responsibility away from systemic access issues. The emphasis here is on the mismatch between what is available and what is needed.

7. Which statement best explains why the ethic-of-care model is a natural fit for the nursing profession?

- A. It aligns because nursing emphasizes the do-no-harm standard in decisions.**
- B. Nurses must make ethical decisions quickly in emergencies.**
- C. The model is primarily focused on institutional policy.**
- D. The profession is dominated by women, who naturally make decisions in the same way the model does.**

At the heart of this question is a focus on relationships, context, and responsive caring. The ethic-of-care model centers on how we attend to people within their unique situations, emphasizing empathy, ongoing interaction, and the relational nature of moral decision-making. Nursing is defined by caring for persons as whole beings—patients within families, communities, and life circumstances—not just by applying abstract rules or fast-cut policies. That alignment makes care ethics a natural fit for nursing because it matches the profession's everyday practice: listening, understanding context, and tailoring care to individual needs over time. The option that invokes a historical link between nursing's gender composition and a particular decision style hints at why care ethics resonates with nursing, but the strongest justification is the relational, context-sensitive approach it advocates. The other statements don't capture this core alignment: focusing on do-no-harm aligns more with principle-based ethics, emergencies require rapid decisions that may not reflect ongoing relational care, and institutional policy emphasizes rules over person-centered relationships.

8. The Rawlsian _____ stresses that policy should improve the conditions for the worst off in a society.

- A. Veil of ignorance
- B. Maximin principle
- C. Pareto efficiency
- D. Difference principle**

The Rawlsian difference principle is the idea that social and economic inequalities are permissible only if they are to the greatest benefit of the least advantaged members of society. This principle directly targets improving the conditions of the worst off, shaping policies so that any unequal arrangements help those at the bottom more than they would be otherwise. The veil of ignorance is the thought experiment Rawls uses to derive principles of justice, not the principle itself. The maximin idea—focusing on the worst possible outcome—appears in the justification, but it's the difference principle that specifically states how inequalities should be arranged to aid the least advantaged. Pareto efficiency, by contrast, concerns making someone better off without making anyone worse off, and doesn't require focusing on the worst off.

9. Which statement describes the amount of inequity depends on the most?

- A. The choice of the comparison group**
- B. The total population's average
- C. The best-off versus the worst-off
- D. The independently defined target rate

Inequity is measured relative to a reference group, so how large the unfair difference appears depends on who you choose to compare to. If you pick a familiar or favorable group as the benchmark, the gap you see can be smaller; if you choose a different reference—such as the best-off group—the gap can appear much larger. In practice, the same distribution can look more or less inequitable simply by changing the comparison group, which is why the choice of the comparison group drives the perceived amount of inequity. The other ideas—using the population average, focusing on the best-off versus worst-off, or applying an independently defined target rate—affect calculations or normative goals, but they don't explain why the measured inequity changes so much with the reference chosen.

10. Which ethics model focuses on the ethical significance of storytelling and patient narratives in care decisions?

A. Virtue

B. Narrative ethics

C. Principlism

D. Ethic-of-care

The main idea being tested is how patient stories shape ethical decision-making.

Narrative ethics centers on the ethical significance of storytelling and patient narratives in care decisions. It argues that understanding a patient's lived experience—their values, goals, fears, and context—through their story provides essential insight for choosing ethically appropriate actions. Rather than relying solely on abstract rules or the caregiver's character, this approach treats the patient's narrative as a foundational source of moral guidance, helping to align decisions with what matters most to the person receiving care. The other frameworks offer important angles but not the same emphasis on stories. Principlism uses universal principles like autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence, and justice to guide decisions; virtue ethics focuses on the caregiver's character and moral virtues guiding behavior; ethic-of-care highlights the importance of relationships and responsiveness in caregiving. When the focus is specifically on the ethical weight of narratives and stories in making care decisions, narrative ethics is the best fit.

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://healthcareethics.examzify.com>

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

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