

HOSA Medical Terminology Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of 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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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!

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Questions

- 1. Which suffix represents a tumor in medical terminology?**
 - A. -oma**
 - B. -itis**
 - C. -osis**
 - D. -pathy**

- 2. What is the meaning of the root "leuk"?**
 - A. White**
 - B. Black**
 - C. Yellow**
 - D. Red**

- 3. In medical terms, what does "px" signify?**
 - A. Diagnosis**
 - B. Prognosis**
 - C. Cancer**
 - D. Cell**

- 4. Which prefix is associated with nerves?**
 - A. Neur**
 - B. Carcin**
 - C. Onc**
 - D. Hist**

- 5. What is the meaning of the suffix "-scopic"?**
 - A. Pertaining to sound**
 - B. Pertaining to visual examination**
 - C. Pertaining to the study of diseases**
 - D. Pertaining to the flow of blood**

- 6. Which of the following describes the meaning of "intra-" most accurately?**
 - A. Outside**
 - B. New**
 - C. Within**
 - D. Many**

- 7. What does the abbreviation "cyt" refer to in medical terminology?**
- A. Diagnosis**
 - B. Cell**
 - C. Cancer**
 - D. Prognosis**
- 8. What does the prefix "path" indicate?**
- A. Disease**
 - B. Cell**
 - C. Tissue**
 - D. Fat**
- 9. In which context is the term "inflammation" most commonly used?**
- A. To describe the healing process**
 - B. To indicate a protective response of body tissues**
 - C. To discuss prevention strategies**
 - D. To evaluate chemical imbalances**
- 10. Which of the following does NOT relate to urine or the urinary system?**
- A. Urethra**
 - B. Ureter**
 - C. Cardiac**
 - D. Kidney**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which suffix represents a tumor in medical terminology?

- A. -oma**
- B. -itis
- C. -osis
- D. -pathy

The suffix that represents a tumor in medical terminology is "-oma." This suffix is commonly used to denote a benign or malignant growth and can be attached to the root word describing the type of tissue in which the tumor originates. For example, "lipoma" refers to a benign tumor of fatty tissue, while "melanoma" refers to a malignant tumor of melanocytes, the cells that produce skin pigment. Understanding the function of medical suffixes is vital as they provide important information about the nature of a condition. In contrast, the suffixes "-itis," "-osis," and "-pathy" refer to inflammation, a disease or abnormal condition, and a disorder or disease of a specific organ, respectively. Thus, while all these suffixes contribute meaning in medical terminology, only "-oma" specifically indicates the presence of a tumor.

2. What is the meaning of the root "leuk"?

- A. White**
- B. Black
- C. Yellow
- D. Red

The root "leuk" is derived from the Greek word "leukos," which translates to "white." This root is commonly used in medical terminology to refer to conditions, cells, or substances that involve white coloration or white blood cells. For example, "leukemia" refers to a type of cancer that affects the blood and bone marrow and is characterized by an increase in white blood cells. Therefore, understanding that "leuk" signifies "white" is essential for interpreting various medical terms related to blood and other white substances in the body. This root is significant in the fields of hematology and oncology, among others.

3. In medical terms, what does "px" signify?

- A. Diagnosis
- B. Prognosis**
- C. Cancer
- D. Cell

In medical terminology, "px" is commonly used as an abbreviation for "prognosis." Prognosis refers to the expected outcome or course of a disease, including the likely chances of recovery and potential complications. It is an essential part of patient care, as it helps healthcare professionals convey to patients and their families what to expect following a particular diagnosis or treatment. Understanding prognosis is crucial for care planning and can influence treatment decisions, patient counseling, and overall management strategies. By determining the prognosis, healthcare providers can tailor interventions that align with the patient's individual health goals and context.

4. Which prefix is associated with nerves?

- A. Neur**
- B. Carcin**
- C. Onc**
- D. Hist**

The prefix associated with nerves is "neur." This prefix is derived from the Greek word "neuron," which means nerve. In medical terminology, "neur" is commonly found in words related to the nervous system and nerve tissues, such as "neurology" (the study of nerves and the nervous system) and "neurosurgery" (surgery involving the nervous system). Understanding this prefix is essential for comprehending various medical terms that pertain to neurological conditions and treatments. In contrast, "carcin" relates to cancer (as in "carcinoma"), "onc" pertains to tumors (used in the term "oncology"), and "hist" relates to tissues (most often seen in "histology," the study of tissues). These prefixes indicate different areas of study or characteristics in medicine and do not specifically indicate a relation to nerves.

5. What is the meaning of the suffix "-scopic"?

- A. Pertaining to sound**
- B. Pertaining to visual examination**
- C. Pertaining to the study of diseases**
- D. Pertaining to the flow of blood**

The suffix "-scopic" derives from the Greek word "skopein," which means "to look" or "to examine." When used in medical terminology, it refers specifically to visual examination or observation. For example, in terms like "endoscopic" or "microscopic," the suffix indicates the method of examining internal structures or objects that are not visible to the naked eye. In the context of medical practice, visual examination is crucial for diagnosing conditions, as many illnesses require direct observation of tissues or organs to assess their health or disease state. Hence, the meaning of the suffix embodies the fundamental role of sight in medical diagnostics and treatment. Other choices relate to different aspects of medicine: "pertaining to sound" would connect more with auditory examination methods (as seen in terms like "auscultation"), "pertaining to the study of diseases" pertains to pathology, and "pertaining to the flow of blood" is related to hemodynamics. These do not align with the definition of "-scopic," which specifically emphasizes visual assessment.

6. Which of the following describes the meaning of "intra-" most accurately?

- A. Outside**
- B. New**
- C. Within**
- D. Many**

The prefix "intra-" originates from Latin, meaning "within" or "inside." It is commonly used in medical terminology to refer to something that occurs inside a structure or system. For example, "intravenous" relates to something administered within a vein, indicating that the action takes place internally within the vascular system. This definition highlights the application of "intra-" across various contexts, emphasizing its role in specifying that a process, condition, or element is situated within a certain space or entity, such as organs or vessels. Understanding this prefix is crucial for interpreting numerous medical terms accurately.

7. What does the abbreviation "cyt" refer to in medical terminology?

- A. Diagnosis**
- B. Cell**
- C. Cancer**
- D. Prognosis**

The abbreviation "cyt" in medical terminology refers specifically to "cell." This stems from the Greek word "kytos," which means "cell." It is commonly used in various medical and biological contexts, such as in terms like "cytology," which is the study of cells, or "cytoplasm," the substance within a cell that is enclosed by the cell membrane. Understanding this abbreviation is crucial for professionals in the medical field as it helps facilitate communication about cellular structures and functions. The other choices, while important in medical contexts, do not relate directly to the concept of a cell. Diagnosis pertains to identifying a condition, cancer refers to a specific disease characterized by uncontrolled cell growth, and prognosis indicates the likely course or outcome of a disease.

8. What does the prefix "path" indicate?

- A. Disease**
- B. Cell**
- C. Tissue**
- D. Fat**

The prefix "path" comes from the Greek word "pathos," which means suffering or disease. In medical terminology, it signifies conditions related to disease processes or disorders. For example, terms like "pathology" refer to the study of diseases, where "path-" indicates the disease aspect and "-ology" indicates the study of. Understanding this prefix is essential for recognizing the nature of various medical conditions and their implications in healthcare. Knowing this allows healthcare professionals to communicate effectively about diseases and their effects on the body.

9. In which context is the term "inflammation" most commonly used?

- A. To describe the healing process**
- B. To indicate a protective response of body tissues**
- C. To discuss prevention strategies**
- D. To evaluate chemical imbalances**

The term "inflammation" is primarily used to indicate a protective response of body tissues to injury, infection, or irritation. This biological response is a fundamental part of the body's immune system's strategy to protect and heal itself. Inflammation involves various physiological changes, including increased blood flow, the migration of immune cells to the affected area, and the release of chemical signals that help to isolate and eliminate pathogens or damaged cells. This process is essential for recovery and restoration of tissue integrity while preventing further damage or spread of infection. The other contexts mentioned in the choices do not capture the primary function of inflammation. Although inflammation can play a role in the healing process, it is fundamentally a protective mechanism rather than just a description of healing. Discussing prevention strategies generally relates more to avoiding injury or infection, while evaluating chemical imbalances pertains to biochemical evaluations rather than the inflammatory response itself. Thus, the emphasis on "protective response of body tissues" aligns closely with the definition and function of inflammation in the human body.

10. Which of the following does NOT relate to urine or the urinary system?

- A. Urethra**
- B. Ureter**
- C. Cardiac**
- D. Kidney**

The correct choice is related to the terminology used to describe components of the urinary system. The urethra, ureter, and kidney are all integral parts of the urinary system. The urethra is the duct through which urine is expelled from the bladder, while the ureter is a tube that transports urine from the kidneys to the bladder. The kidneys are the organs responsible for filtering blood to produce urine. In contrast, "cardiac" refers to the heart and relates to the circulatory system rather than the urinary system. This term indicates a focus on the heart's structure and function, illustrating that it is unrelated to urine production or excretion.

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://hosamedicalterminology.examzify.com>

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