

HOSA Medical Terminology 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 does the suffix "-pnea" refer to in medical terminology?**
 - A. Blood flow**
 - B. Breathing**
 - C. Infection**
 - D. Pressure**

- 2. What type of treatment does the term "radiation therapy" denote?**
 - A. Thermal treatment**
 - B. Electrical stimulation**
 - C. Radioactive substance treatment**
 - D. Surgical removal**

- 3. In medical terminology, what does "stasis" often describe?**
 - A. Growth**
 - B. Control or equilibrium**
 - C. Spreading**
 - D. Diagnosis**

- 4. What does the prefix "meta-" signify in medical terminology?**
 - A. After**
 - B. New**
 - C. Inflammation**
 - D. Within**

- 5. What is the meaning of the term "ven" in medical terminology?**
 - A. Bone**
 - B. Many**
 - C. Vein**
 - D. Trachea**

- 6. What term describes the reduction or absence of disease symptoms?**
- A. Relapse**
 - B. Remission**
 - C. Diagnosis**
 - D. Cure**
- 7. What does the term "-rrhagia" indicate?**
- A. Inflammation of a tissue**
 - B. Rapid flow of blood**
 - C. Discharge of fluid**
 - D. Painful sensation**
- 8. What type of tissue is affected by squamous cell carcinoma?**
- A. Nervous tissue**
 - B. Muscle tissue**
 - C. Epithelial tissue**
 - D. Connective tissue**
- 9. Which term refers to the organ responsible for filtering blood and producing urine?**
- A. Ureter**
 - B. Kidney**
 - C. Urethra**
 - D. Bladder**
- 10. What does the suffix "-itis" suggest about a medical condition?**
- A. It pertains to a disease**
 - B. It involves inflammation**
 - C. It relates to strong pain**
 - D. It indicates a surgical procedure**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does the suffix "-pnea" refer to in medical terminology?

- A. Blood flow**
- B. Breathing**
- C. Infection**
- D. Pressure**

The suffix "-pnea" specifically refers to breathing in medical terminology. It denotes various aspects of respiratory function and can be combined with prefixes to describe different conditions related to breathing. For example, the term "apnea" refers to a temporary cessation of breathing, while "tachypnea" describes an abnormally rapid breathing rate. This suffix is derived from the Greek word "pnoia," which means breath or respiration, thus firmly establishing its connection to the respiratory system. Understanding this suffix is essential for interpreting a wide range of medical terms related to respiratory health.

2. What type of treatment does the term "radiation therapy" denote?

- A. Thermal treatment**
- B. Electrical stimulation**
- C. Radioactive substance treatment**
- D. Surgical removal**

Radiation therapy refers to the use of high-energy radiation to treat disease, particularly cancer. This treatment works by damaging the DNA of cancerous cells, which can lead to their death or hinder their growth and reproduction. It commonly utilizes ionizing radiation from radioactive substances, such as gamma rays or X-rays, to target tumors effectively. In contrast, thermal treatment involves the application of heat to the affected area, which is not related to the principle of radiation therapy. Electrical stimulation pertains to using electrical currents to stimulate nerves or muscles, primarily for rehabilitation or pain management. Surgical removal indicates the physical extraction of tissue or organs, which does not involve the use of radiation in the therapeutic sense. Thus, the use of radioactive substances in radiation therapy is precisely what distinguishes it as a specific and effective treatment modality for certain illnesses, particularly various types of cancer.

3. In medical terminology, what does "stasis" often describe?

- A. Growth
- B. Control or equilibrium**
- C. Spreading
- D. Diagnosis

In medical terminology, "stasis" is derived from the Greek word meaning "standing" or "stopping." It is commonly used to indicate a state of equilibrium, where there is a balance or control within a system. For example, when discussing blood circulation, "blood stasis" implies a condition where blood flow is stagnant or not moving properly, leading to potential issues within the cardiovascular system. Similarly, "homeostasis" refers to the body's ability to maintain stable internal conditions despite changes in the external environment. This concept is crucial in understanding bodily functions and responses to various stimuli or treatments. The other options do not align with the definition of "stasis." Growth refers to an increase in size or number, spreading implies dispersion or extension, and diagnosis involves the identification of a condition or disease. Thus, the usage of "stasis" in a medical context is specifically related to control or equilibrium.

4. What does the prefix "meta-" signify in medical terminology?

- A. After**
- B. New
- C. Inflammation
- D. Within

The prefix "meta-" in medical terminology signifies a sense of "after" or "beyond." This prefix is often used to describe a change or transition that occurs following a specific event or condition. For example, in the context of cancer, "metastasis" refers to the process by which cancer cells spread from the original tumor to other parts of the body, indicating that these changes happen after the primary tumor has formed. While "new," "inflammation," and "within" may relate to other prefixes or medical concepts, they do not capture the specific meaning of "meta-" as it pertains to indicating something that occurs subsequently or in a more advanced state. Understanding the usage of "meta-" can help in decoding various medical terms that involve progression or change over time.

5. What is the meaning of the term "ven" in medical terminology?

- A. Bone**
- B. Many**
- C. Vein**
- D. Trachea**

The term "ven" in medical terminology specifically refers to "vein." In anatomical terms, a vein is a blood vessel that carries deoxygenated blood from the body back to the heart, except for the pulmonary veins, which carry oxygenated blood from the lungs to the heart. Understanding this term is vital for comprehending various medical conditions, treatments, or discussions regarding the vascular system. In the context of anatomy and physiology, correctly identifying venous structures is crucial for medical professionals when interpreting vascular imaging, performing surgical procedures, or diagnosing cardiovascular diseases. Thus, "ven" serves as a foundational component in numerous medical terms related to veins and venous functions.

6. What term describes the reduction or absence of disease symptoms?

- A. Relapse**
- B. Remission**
- C. Diagnosis**
- D. Cure**

The term that describes the reduction or absence of disease symptoms is "remission." This concept is especially relevant in chronic illnesses, such as cancer or autoimmune diseases, where a patient may experience a period where symptoms decrease significantly or disappear entirely, without necessarily meaning that the disease is fully eliminated. In remission, the patient might not show any signs of the illness, and this state can last for varying durations. It's important to note that remission does not indicate that the disease has been cured, as symptoms can return later. The understanding of remission is crucial for both treatment options and patient management, indicating a positive response to therapy while recognizing the potential for symptom reappearance. The other terms pertain to different aspects of illness management and understanding. A relapse refers to the return of disease symptoms after a period of improvement, diagnosis is the identification of a disease based on signs and symptoms, and a cure implies the complete eradication of a disease. Each of these terms has its unique application in medical terminology, and being able to distinguish them can greatly enhance understanding in a clinical context.

7. What does the term "-rrhagia" indicate?

- A. Inflammation of a tissue
- B. Rapid flow of blood**
- C. Discharge of fluid
- D. Painful sensation

The term "-rrhagia" is a suffix derived from Greek, meaning an abnormal or excessive flow of blood. This suffix specifically refers to situations involving significant hemorrhage or bleeding, which is why the second choice, indicating rapid flow of blood, is the correct interpretation. In medical terminology, understanding these suffixes is crucial as they provide key insights into the conditions being described. For example, "-rrhagia" can be found in terms like "menorrhagia," which refers to heavy menstrual bleeding. Recognizing this context helps healthcare professionals diagnose conditions and understand patient symptoms more clearly. The other options present meanings associated with different medical concepts: inflammation refers to swelling or irritation, discharge signifies the release of fluid from a tissue or organ, and a painful sensation pertains to discomfort or pain. Each of these has its own specific suffixes in medical terminology, differentiating them from the specific meaning that "-rrhagia" conveys.

8. What type of tissue is affected by squamous cell carcinoma?

- A. Nervous tissue
- B. Muscle tissue
- C. Epithelial tissue**
- D. Connective tissue

Squamous cell carcinoma specifically affects epithelial tissue, which is the layer of cells that lines both the internal and external surfaces of the body. Epithelial tissue is composed of closely packed cells, and it plays essential roles in protection, absorption, secretion, and sensation. Squamous cell carcinoma arises from squamous cells, which are flat, scale-like cells found in the skin and lining of various organs, including the respiratory and digestive tracts. This type of cancer is often associated with prolonged exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation or other damaging agents. The other types of tissue, such as nervous, muscle, and connective tissue, do not develop squamous cell carcinoma because each type has distinct cell structures and functions. Nervous tissue is responsible for transmitting signals in the body, muscle tissue facilitates movement, and connective tissue supports and binds other tissues together. Additionally, these tissues have different cellular compositions, making them less susceptible to the specific changes that lead to the development of squamous cell carcinoma.

9. Which term refers to the organ responsible for filtering blood and producing urine?

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

The term that refers to the organ responsible for filtering blood and producing urine is "kidney." The kidneys perform essential functions in the urinary system, including removing waste products and excess substances from the bloodstream. They filter approximately 50 gallons of blood each day, extracting toxins, urea, and other metabolic waste. The filtration process occurs in tiny structures called nephrons, which are the functional units of the kidney. After filtering the blood, the kidneys produce urine, which is then transported to the bladder via the ureters for temporary storage before being expelled from the body through the urethra. Understanding the role of the kidneys is fundamental in human anatomy and physiology, as they are crucial for maintaining fluid balance, electrolyte levels, and overall homeostasis.

10. What does the suffix "-itis" suggest about a medical condition?

- A. It pertains to a disease
- B. It involves inflammation**
- C. It relates to strong pain
- D. It indicates a surgical procedure

The suffix "-itis" is commonly used in medical terminology to denote inflammation of a specific organ or tissue. For example, "arthritis" refers to the inflammation of the joints, while "appendicitis" refers to the inflammation of the appendix. This suffix indicates not only the presence of an inflammatory process but often hints at the symptoms associated with that inflammation, such as swelling, pain, redness, and heat. Understanding that "-itis" signifies inflammation is essential for interpreting a wide range of medical conditions accurately.

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!

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