

Hospital Corpsman (HM) Personnel Qualification Standards (PQS) 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. Which item is commonly used with vital signs machines?**
 - A. Syringe**
 - B. Oxygen cylinder**
 - C. Cuff**
 - D. Gel stethoscope**

- 2. Which resource describes improvements in patient care processes?**
 - A. Staffing levels**
 - B. Nursing licensure**
 - C. patient care process improvement activities**
 - D. Equipment procurement**

- 3. What is the initial management priority for a patient with suspected internal hemorrhage?**
 - A. Administer antibiotics**
 - B. Maintain airway and hemodynamic stability**
 - C. Apply a tourniquet to all limbs**
 - D. Observe and reassess in 30 minutes**

- 4. Which items are included in the Periodic Health Assessment (PHA) NavMed 6120/4?**
 - A. Individual medical equipment, immunizations, readiness laboratory studies, dental readiness, deployment limiting conditions.**
 - B. Dental readiness only.**
 - C. Immunizations only.**
 - D. Administrative forms unrelated to health status.**

- 5. Bismuth subsalicylate is commonly marketed under which trade name?**
 - A. Kaopectate**
 - B. Pepto-Bismol**
 - C. Miralax**
 - D. Tums**

- 6. Which statement best describes a vector in infectious disease transmission?**
- A. A living organism that transmits infection between hosts**
 - B. An inanimate object that transports pathogens**
 - C. A chemical that disinfects surfaces**
 - D. A mode of vaccination**
- 7. What does the Armed Forces Vision Tester (AFVT) assess?**
- A. Near and distant visual acuity, horizontal and vertical phorias, and depth perception**
 - B. Only color vision**
 - C. Hearing thresholds**
 - D. Blood pressure**
- 8. Which term refers to diseases caused by pathogens that can spread among people?**
- A. Immunity**
 - B. Chain of infection**
 - C. Infectious disease**
 - D. Latent infection**
- 9. Which biopsy technique uses a circular blade to remove a small cylinder of skin?**
- A. Shave biopsy**
 - B. Excisional biopsy**
 - C. Incisional biopsy**
 - D. Punch biopsy**
- 10. MRRS component which represents the overall medical readiness profile for a service member is which of the following?**
- A. Individual Medical Readiness Report (IMR)**
 - B. Command/Unit medical readiness report**
 - C. Medical status summary**
 - D. Comprehensive**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which item is commonly used with vital signs machines?

- A. Syringe
- B. Oxygen cylinder
- C. Cuff**
- D. Gel stethoscope

Measuring blood pressure is a key part of vital signs, and it relies on a cuff. The cuff wraps around the upper arm and inflates to compress the brachial artery, then deflates while the monitor (or clinician) detects the pressure at which blood flow returns. That process yields systolic and diastolic values, so the cuff is the essential component for obtaining this vital sign. Proper sizing and placement are crucial—use the correct circumference, position the cuff at heart level with the arm supported, and ensure no clothing distorts the fit—for accurate readings. The other items don't serve this measurement: a syringe is used for injections, an oxygen cylinder provides therapy, and a stethoscope does the auscultation but doesn't involve an inflatable cuff for measuring blood pressure.

2. Which resource describes improvements in patient care processes?

- A. Staffing levels
- B. Nursing licensure
- C. patient care process improvement activities**
- D. Equipment procurement

Improvements in patient care processes revolve around changing how care is delivered to make it safer, faster, and more consistent. The resource that best matches this is patient care process improvement activities, because it explicitly covers the methods and initiatives used to analyze current workflows, identify inefficiencies or safety issues, implement changes, and measure outcomes. Staffing levels describe how many personnel are available, which affects capacity but not the methods for improving the care process itself. Nursing licensure is about credentialing, not about improving how care is delivered. Equipment procurement focuses on obtaining tools, not on redesigning or optimizing the care processes.

3. What is the initial management priority for a patient with suspected internal hemorrhage?

- A. Administer antibiotics
- B. Maintain airway and hemodynamic stability
- C. Apply a tourniquet to all limbs
- D. Observe and reassess in 30 minutes**

Securing the airway and stabilizing circulation is the immediate priority. When internal bleeding is suspected, the patient can deteriorate quickly due to hypovolemia and shock, so the first actions focus on keeping the airway open, ensuring adequate breathing with oxygen, and supporting circulation (establishing IV access and initiating fluid resuscitation or blood products as per protocol). While other interventions—like antibiotics or limb tourniquets—might be relevant in different contexts, they do not address the life-threatening risk of unmanaged internal hemorrhage. Waiting to observe or reassess after 30 minutes could allow the situation to worsen, so active resuscitation and rapid assessment are essential from the outset.

4. Which items are included in the Periodic Health Assessment (PHA) NavMed 6120/4?

- A. Individual medical equipment, immunizations, readiness laboratory studies, dental readiness, deployment limiting conditions.**
- B. Dental readiness only.**
- C. Immunizations only.**
- D. Administrative forms unrelated to health status.**

The Periodic Health Assessment NavMed 6120/4 is designed to capture a service member's readiness by reviewing several health-related elements. It includes documentation of individual medical equipment assigned or used, immunization status to ensure personnel are properly protected and current, readiness laboratory studies to verify health indicators needed for duty, dental readiness to ensure a deployable dental status, and deployment-limiting conditions that could affect deployment eligibility. Each component helps identify anything that could hinder readiness or require medical action before deployment. The other options fall short because they emphasize only one aspect (such as dental readiness or immunizations) or describe items unrelated to health status like administrative forms.

5. Bismuth subsalicylate is commonly marketed under which trade name?

- A. Kaopectate**
- B. Pepto-Bismol**
- C. Miralax**
- D. Tums**

Trade names identify the brand sold on store shelves for a given drug. Bismuth subsalicylate is the active ingredient used to calm upset stomach and diarrhea, and the most widely recognized brand for this compound is Pepto-Bismol. The pink liquid brand is what many people associate with this medication. Kaopectate has been used for similar purposes in the past and may contain the same active ingredient in some formulations, but it isn't as universally recognized today. Miralax is a laxative with a different active ingredient (polyethylene glycol), and Tums is calcium carbonate used as an antacid.

6. Which statement best describes a vector in infectious disease transmission?

- A. A living organism that transmits infection between hosts**
- B. An inanimate object that transports pathogens**
- C. A chemical that disinfects surfaces**
- D. A mode of vaccination**

A vector is a living organism that transmits infection from one host to another. It isn't the pathogen itself or a disinfectant, but a carrier that enables the pathogen to move between hosts. Common examples are mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas, which can harbor pathogens biologically (where the pathogen replicates or develops inside the vector) or mechanically (pathogens carried on the vector's body). This distinguishes vectors from vehicles or fomites, which are inanimate objects that spread pathogens, and from chemicals or vaccines, which do not transmit infections. So a living organism that transmits infection between hosts best describes a vector.

7. What does the Armed Forces Vision Tester (AFVT) assess?

- A. Near and distant visual acuity, horizontal and vertical phorias, and depth perception**
- B. Only color vision**
- C. Hearing thresholds**
- D. Blood pressure**

The main idea tested is how well your vision supports functional tasks in military settings by looking at three key aspects. First, near and distance visual acuity checks how clearly you can see details up close and far away, which matters for reading instruments, maps, labels, and cues in the environment. Second, horizontal and vertical phorias assess eye alignment—whether the eyes tend to drift inward or outward (horizontal) or up and down (vertical) when fusion is challenged. Detecting these helps ensure you won't experience misalignment-related trouble such as double vision during demanding tasks or fatigue. Third, depth perception evaluates stereoscopic vision, your ability to judge distances between objects, which is crucial for aiming, navigating terrain, and coordinating with others. Color vision, hearing thresholds, and blood pressure are not what the AFVT targets, as those functions are evaluated with different screenings.

8. Which term refers to diseases caused by pathogens that can spread among people?

- A. Immunity**
- B. Chain of infection**
- C. Infectious disease**
- D. Latent infection**

Pathogens that cause illness and can move from one person to another define infectious diseases. This term covers illnesses caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi, or parasites that are capable of transmission through contact, droplets, contaminated surfaces, or vectors. The other options don't fit as well: immunity is the body's defense against disease, not the disease itself; the chain of infection is a model describing how transmission happens and how to break it; latent infection refers to pathogens present in the body in a dormant state, which may or may not be contagious, but it's not the general category for diseases that spread between people.

9. Which biopsy technique uses a circular blade to remove a small cylinder of skin?

- A. Shave biopsy**
- B. Excisional biopsy**
- C. Incisional biopsy**
- D. Punch biopsy**

The technique that uses a circular blade to remove a small cylinder of skin is a punch biopsy. The punch tool acts like a cookie cutter, rotating to cut a full-thickness plug that includes the epidermis, dermis, and sometimes subcutaneous tissue, forming a cylindrical specimen. This arrangement provides a complete cross-section of skin layers with preserved architecture, which is essential for diagnosing lesions and assessing depth. After removal, the wound is managed based on size and location, often with simple suturing or letting it heal by secondary intention. Other methods shave off superficial layers or remove an entire lesion with an elliptical incision or only a portion of it, not a cylindrical full-thickness sample like the punch biopsy.

10. MRRS component which represents the overall medical readiness profile for a service member is which of the following?

- A. Individual Medical Readiness Report (IMR)**
- B. Command/Unit medical readiness report**
- C. Medical status summary**
- D. Comprehensive**

The overall medical readiness profile for a service member is captured by a single, holistic MRRS component. This comprehensive view brings together all relevant medical readiness elements—medical conditions, immunizations, periodic health assessments, dental status, waivers, and any deployment limitations—into one snapshot used to gauge deployability. The other options provide important parts of the picture, but they don't on their own show the complete readiness status. The individual medical readiness report documents specific data like immunizations and PHAs; the command/unit readiness report is at the unit level; and the medical status summary offers a concise view of certain statuses. Taken together, the comprehensive component is the element that represents the service member's overall medical readiness profile.

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://hmpqs.examzify.com>

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

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