

INTRAVENOUS (IV) THERAPY PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED 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. 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 symptom might indicate a complication during IV therapy?**
 - A. Increased urine output
 - B. Redness or swelling at the insertion site
 - C. Improved oxygen saturation
 - D. Stable blood pressure
- 2. What should be done if an IV site appears to be infiltrated?**
 - A. Monitor the site and notify the healthcare provider
 - B. Apply heat to the area
 - C. Immediate removal of the IV device
 - D. Continue the infusion at a lower rate
- 3. What nursing intervention should be performed for phlebitis?**
 - A. Elevate the affected extremity
 - B. Apply warm, moist heat to the area as ordered
 - C. Continue monitoring the IV site
 - D. Use a thicker catheter for the next infusion
- 4. Which method is effective in preventing air embolism during IV therapy?**
 - A. Using non-luer lock systems
 - B. Always priming IV lines before connecting
 - C. Keeping IV lines open without caps
 - D. Administering large volumes quickly
- 5. What is the primary purpose of an IV catheter?**
 - A. To access the urinary system
 - B. To provide a route for medication and fluid administration
 - C. To analyze blood samples
 - D. To draw up medications for oral administration
- 6. What is the purpose of a primary and secondary IV line?**
 - A. To administer medications only
 - B. To administer fluids only
 - C. To administer multiple therapies simultaneously
 - D. To replace outdated IV equipment

- 7. What is the importance of hand hygiene in IV therapy?**
- A. To promote comfort for the patient
 - B. To reduce the risk of infection
 - C. To speed up the administration of IV fluids
 - D. To maintain equipment cleanliness
- 8. Why is patient education an important part of IV therapy?**
- A. To reduce the cost of treatment
 - B. To increase patient compliance and understanding of their treatment
 - C. To control the administration of IV therapy
 - D. To facilitate quicker discharge from the hospital
- 9. What is the primary effect of a hypertonic solution on bodily fluids?**
- A. It causes fluid to move into the interstitial compartments
 - B. It draws fluid out of the vascular compartment
 - C. It causes fluid to move from intracellular and interstitial compartments into the vascular compartment
 - D. It results in dilution of plasma proteins
- 10. What is a defining feature of isotonic solutions compared to blood plasma?**
- A. They have a higher concentration of solutes
 - B. They have the same concentration of solutes
 - C. They have a lower concentration of electrolytes
 - D. They contain no carbohydrates

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which symptom might indicate a complication during IV therapy?

- A. Increased urine output
- B. Redness or swelling at the insertion site**
- C. Improved oxygen saturation
- D. Stable blood pressure

Redness or swelling at the insertion site is a significant symptom that may indicate a complication during IV therapy. Such symptoms can suggest that an infusion is not proceeding as intended, possibly pointing to phlebitis, infiltration, or even an infection at the site. Phlebitis is an inflammation of the vein that can result from irritation due to the catheter or the fluids being infused. Infiltration occurs when IV fluids leak into the surrounding tissue instead of being delivered into the vein, leading to swelling and potential tissue damage. Recognizing these symptoms early is crucial for preventing more severe complications, such as abscess formation or systemic infection. In contrast, increased urine output, improved oxygen saturation, and stable blood pressure typically indicate that the body is responding well to treatment. These should not be construed as complications during IV therapy but rather as positive signs indicating that the therapy is effective and that the patient is likely maintaining stable homeostasis.

2. What should be done if an IV site appears to be infiltrated?

- A. Monitor the site and notify the healthcare provider
- B. Apply heat to the area
- C. Immediate removal of the IV device**
- D. Continue the infusion at a lower rate

When an IV site appears to be infiltrated, the immediate removal of the IV device is the proper action to take. Infiltration occurs when the IV catheter is no longer properly situated within the vein, leading to the infusion of fluids into surrounding tissues instead of the bloodstream. This can cause discomfort, swelling, and potential tissue damage. Removing the IV device alleviates the complication and prevents further harm to the surrounding tissue. After removal, it is crucial to assess the site for any signs of additional complications, such as phlebitis, and to document the incident properly. It also allows for the opportunity to insert a new IV line in a more suitable location if necessary. Monitoring the site could be seen as a passive approach that fails to address the issue directly. Applying heat might provide temporary relief but does not resolve the underlying problem of the infiltrated IV. Continuing the infusion, even at a lower rate, poses risks and fails to address the malfunctioning IV access. These actions underscore the importance of promptly managing infiltrated IV sites to safeguard patient safety and promote effective intravenous therapy.

3. What nursing intervention should be performed for phlebitis?

- A. Elevate the affected extremity
- B. Apply warm, moist heat to the area as ordered**
- C. Continue monitoring the IV site
- D. Use a thicker catheter for the next infusion

Applying warm, moist heat to the area of phlebitis is a recommended intervention because it can help alleviate pain and promote circulation, which may assist in reducing inflammation. The warmth increases blood flow to the affected area, aiding in the healing process and potentially minimizing discomfort for the patient. This intervention aligns with standard nursing practices for managing phlebitis effectively. Elevating the affected extremity is also a common intervention for certain vascular or soft tissue conditions, as it can help reduce swelling. However, in the case of phlebitis, applying heat is more specific to addressing the inflammation directly. While continuing to monitor the IV site is important, it does not actively address the symptoms of phlebitis. Using a thicker catheter for the next infusion could potentially exacerbate the irritation or trauma to the vein, especially if the initial phlebitis was related to catheter size or type. Thus, applying warm, moist heat specifically targets the inflammation and discomfort associated with phlebitis effectively.

4. Which method is effective in preventing air embolism during IV therapy?

- A. Using non-luer lock systems
- B. Always priming IV lines before connecting**
- C. Keeping IV lines open without caps
- D. Administering large volumes quickly

Priming IV lines before connecting is essential for preventing air embolism during IV therapy. When an IV line is not primed, air can remain in the tubing, which may be inadvertently introduced into the patient's bloodstream when the IV is connected. By filling the IV line with fluid prior to attachment, this air is expelled, ensuring that only the intended medication or solution is delivered to the patient, thereby reducing the risk of complications such as air embolism. The priming process involves flushing the entire length of the IV line with the infusion solution until all visible air bubbles are removed. This creates a continuous fluid column, preventing any accidental entry of air into the circulatory system. This practice is a fundamental safety measure in IV therapy, promoting patient safety and the efficacy of the treatment being administered.

5. What is the primary purpose of an IV catheter?

- A. To access the urinary system
- B. To provide a route for medication and fluid administration**
- C. To analyze blood samples
- D. To draw up medications for oral administration

The primary purpose of an IV catheter is to provide a route for medication and fluid administration. IV catheters allow healthcare providers to deliver medications, fluids, electrolytes, and nutrients directly into a patient's bloodstream, ensuring rapid and effective treatment. This method is particularly beneficial in emergency situations, as medications can be administered quickly, and it is essential for patients who are unable to take oral medications due to various reasons such as nausea, unconsciousness, or severe illness. Additionally, IV therapy can be used for blood transfusions and delivering intravenous antibiotics, among other treatments, thereby highlighting the versatility and importance of IV catheters in patient care. Other options, while related to healthcare, do not serve this primary function. For instance, accessing the urinary system is typically done through catheters specifically designed for that purpose, while drawing blood samples and preparing medications for oral administration involve different processes and equipment not associated with IV catheters.

6. What is the purpose of a primary and secondary IV line?

- A. To administer medications only
- B. To administer fluids only
- C. To administer multiple therapies simultaneously**
- D. To replace outdated IV equipment

The primary and secondary IV lines are designed to administer multiple therapies simultaneously, which is essential for providing comprehensive treatment in a clinical setting. The primary IV line typically delivers a continuous infusion of fluids and electrolytes, while the secondary IV line, often referred to as a "piggyback" line, allows for the intermittent administration of medications or additional fluids without needing to establish a new access point in the patient's vein. Using both lines together enhances the efficiency of patient care by allowing healthcare professionals to address hydration, nutrition, and medication delivery concurrently, which is particularly beneficial when a patient requires complex treatment regimens. This setup minimizes discomfort and the risk of complications, as it avoids repeated venipunctures. The other options do not capture the primary function of both lines in IV therapy. While medications and fluids can be administered separately, the ability to provide both through a combined system is what makes this approach effective and practical in managing patients' needs. Additionally, replacing outdated equipment is a matter of maintenance rather than a purpose of using dual IV lines.

7. What is the importance of hand hygiene in IV therapy?

- A. To promote comfort for the patient
- B. To reduce the risk of infection**
- C. To speed up the administration of IV fluids
- D. To maintain equipment cleanliness

The significance of hand hygiene in intravenous (IV) therapy primarily revolves around its role in reducing the risk of infection. Proper hand hygiene practices, such as thorough handwashing or using alcohol-based hand sanitizers, help eliminate pathogens from the healthcare provider's hands before they contact the patient or any equipment involved in the IV administration process. By ensuring that hands are clean, healthcare providers significantly decrease the likelihood of transferring bacteria, viruses, or other infectious agents to the patient or into the IV system itself. This is particularly critical since IV therapy involves direct access to the bloodstream, where infections can quickly lead to serious complications, including bloodstream infections and sepsis. While promoting comfort for the patient, speeding up the administration of IV fluids, and maintaining equipment cleanliness are important considerations in IV therapy, they do not directly address the primary concern of infection control that is central to patient safety. Therefore, the emphasis on hand hygiene is essential to establish a safe clinical environment and protect patient health.

8. Why is patient education an important part of IV therapy?

- A. To reduce the cost of treatment
- B. To increase patient compliance and understanding of their treatment**
- C. To control the administration of IV therapy
- D. To facilitate quicker discharge from the hospital

Patient education is a critical component of IV therapy primarily because it fosters increased patient compliance and understanding of their treatment. When patients are well-informed about the purpose and function of the IV therapy they are receiving, they are more likely to adhere to the prescribed regimen and recognize the significance of the treatment in their recovery process. Education helps to demystify the therapy, alleviating any fears or misconceptions patients may have about the procedure, potential side effects, and the importance of reporting any adverse reactions. Furthermore, informed patients tend to be more engaged in their healthcare decisions, which can contribute positively to health outcomes. When patients understand their treatment plans, they can participate actively in discussions with healthcare providers, ask relevant questions, and make informed choices about their care. This overall approach can enhance the quality of care and ensure that the patient feels more secure and empowered during their treatment. Other options, while they may have some value in a broader context of healthcare management, do not capture the essential role of patient education in the context of IV therapy as comprehensively. For instance, cost reduction and quicker discharge might be indirect benefits of effective education but are not the primary goal of educating patients about IV therapy. Similarly, while controlling the administration of IV therapy is critical, patient

9. What is the primary effect of a hypertonic solution on bodily fluids?

- A. It causes fluid to move into the interstitial compartments
- B. It draws fluid out of the vascular compartment
- C. It causes fluid to move from intracellular and interstitial compartments into the vascular compartment**
- D. It results in dilution of plasma proteins

The primary effect of a hypertonic solution on bodily fluids is that it causes fluid to move from intracellular and interstitial compartments into the vascular compartment. This occurs due to the osmotic gradient created by the hypertonic solution, which has a higher concentration of solutes compared to the fluids within cells and surrounding tissues. When a hypertonic solution is introduced into the body, water moves out of the cells and interstitial spaces to balance the osmotic pressure, leading to an increase in fluid volume within the vascular system. This process is crucial in clinical settings, especially when managing conditions that require fluid resuscitation or correction of hyponatremia. By understanding this mechanism, healthcare providers can effectively utilize hypertonic solutions to achieve desired therapeutic outcomes. The movement of fluids is determined by the principles of osmosis, where water tends to move from areas of lower solute concentration (like inside cells) to areas of higher solute concentration (like a hypertonic IV solution), thus drawing fluid into the vascular compartment.

10. What is a defining feature of isotonic solutions compared to blood plasma?

- A. They have a higher concentration of solutes
- B. They have the same concentration of solutes**
- C. They have a lower concentration of electrolytes
- D. They contain no carbohydrates

Isotonic solutions are characterized by having the same concentration of solutes as blood plasma. This is significant because maintaining isotonicity is essential for fluid balance in the body; it helps minimize the movement of water into or out of cells. When isotonic solutions are administered, they do not cause cells to shrink or swell, which can occur if a solution is either hypertonic (higher solute concentration) or hypotonic (lower solute concentration). This characteristic is crucial in clinical settings, particularly in IV therapy, where isotonic solutions such as 0.9% saline or Lactated Ringer's solution are often used to replace fluids without causing imbalances in cellular hydration. The other choices either refer to concepts that would define hypertonic or hypotonic solutions or mention specific components that do not determine a solution's tonicity relative to plasma.

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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://ivtherapy.examzify.com>

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

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