

Massachusetts Pharmacy Technician License 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. What type of anesthesia is lidocaine 5% typically used for?**
 - A. Local anesthesia**
 - B. General anesthesia**
 - C. Spinal anesthesia**
 - D. Topical anesthesia**

- 2. What type of diabetes is characterized as insulin-dependent?**
 - A. Type one diabetes**
 - B. Type two diabetes**
 - C. Gestational diabetes**
 - D. Prediabetes**

- 3. What DEA form is used to order schedule three drugs from wholesalers?**
 - A. DEA Form 106**
 - B. DEA Form 41**
 - C. DEA Form 222**
 - D. DEA Form 363**

- 4. Which route of administration involves injecting medication into the fatty tissue under the skin?**
 - A. Intravenous**
 - B. Intramuscular**
 - C. Subcutaneous**
 - D. Intradermal**

- 5. What is one major benefit of vitamin C regarding iron?**
 - A. It replaces iron in the body**
 - B. It decreases iron absorption**
 - C. It helps in absorption of iron**
 - D. It eliminates the need for iron**

- 6. What term is used to describe the practice of placing newer items at the front of a shelf in a pharmacy?**
- A. Inventory management**
 - B. Stock rotation**
 - C. Expiration tracking**
 - D. Product organization**
- 7. What does a trademark do in relation to a drug?**
- A. Protects the drug's formula**
 - B. Protects a drug's brand name from unauthorized use**
 - C. Ensures the drug's effectiveness**
 - D. Guarantees patient safety**
- 8. What is a commonly used term for a rolling cabinet that dispenses emergency pregnancy medication in hospitals?**
- A. Emergency kit**
 - B. Medication cart**
 - C. Crash cart**
 - D. Supply cabinet**
- 9. What must be included in the continuing education hours for PTCB recertification?**
- A. Pharmacy ethics**
 - B. Patient safety**
 - C. Pharmacy law**
 - D. Drug interactions**
- 10. Which medication is exempt from the PPPA locking requirements?**
- A. Digoxin**
 - B. Estradiol**
 - C. Nitroglycerin**
 - D. Albuterol**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What type of anesthesia is lidocaine 5% typically used for?

- A. Local anesthesia**
- B. General anesthesia**
- C. Spinal anesthesia**
- D. Topical anesthesia**

Lidocaine 5% is primarily utilized for local anesthesia, providing targeted pain relief in specific areas of the body. This type of anesthesia works by blocking nerve signals in the area where it is applied, leading to numbness and the alleviation of pain during minor surgical procedures, dental work, or other localized interventions. While lidocaine can be employed in various forms, such as topical applications or injections, its use in higher concentrations like 5% is particularly effective for localized nerve blocks or surface numbness on the skin, making it suitable for conditions requiring quick pain relief in a focused area. The option regarding spinal anesthesia, which involves injecting anesthesia into the spinal column, does not align with the typical applications of lidocaine, especially at this concentration. Thus, recognizing lidocaine 5% as a form of local anesthesia is essential in understanding its practical applications in clinical settings.

2. What type of diabetes is characterized as insulin-dependent?

- A. Type one diabetes**
- B. Type two diabetes**
- C. Gestational diabetes**
- D. Prediabetes**

Type one diabetes is characterized as insulin-dependent because individuals with this condition do not produce insulin due to the autoimmune destruction of the insulin-producing beta cells in the pancreas. As a result, they require exogenous (external) insulin to manage their blood glucose levels effectively. This type of diabetes is often diagnosed in children or young adults, which is reflected in its name. Type two diabetes typically involves insulin resistance, where the body still produces insulin but cannot effectively use it. Although some patients with type two diabetes may need insulin therapy, it is not classified as insulin-dependent in the same way type one is. Gestational diabetes occurs during pregnancy and usually resolves after delivery, while prediabetes indicates elevated blood sugar levels that are not high enough for a diagnosis of diabetes but often precedes type two diabetes.

3. What DEA form is used to order schedule three drugs from wholesalers?

- A. DEA Form 106**
- B. DEA Form 41**
- C. DEA Form 222**
- D. DEA Form 363**

The correct answer is DEA Form 222, which is specifically designed for ordering Schedule I and II controlled substances. However, it is important to clarify the regulation surrounding Schedule III drugs. Schedule III, IV, and V drugs can typically be ordered using a regular purchase order without the need for a special form like Form 222, which is why some might mistakenly associate the need for Form 222 for Schedule III drugs. In the context of ordering medications, registrants who handle Schedule III drugs may simply include them in a standard order alongside non-controlled substances or utilize a state-specific form if required. Nonetheless, Form 222 remains a critical component of the controlled substance ordering process for higher schedules strictly regulated by the DEA. Thus, while this can lead to confusion among those studying for the pharmacy technician license, recognizing the specific regulatory requirements for the different schedules is essential for accurate understanding and compliance in a pharmacy setting.

4. Which route of administration involves injecting medication into the fatty tissue under the skin?

- A. Intravenous**
- B. Intramuscular**
- C. Subcutaneous**
- D. Intradermal**

The route of administration that involves injecting medication into the fatty tissue under the skin is called subcutaneous. This method allows for the absorption of medication into the bloodstream at a controlled rate, making it effective for drugs that require gradual absorption. Subcutaneous injections are commonly used for insulin and some vaccines, as they are generally easier to administer and less painful than other injection routes. In contrast, intravenous administration involves injecting directly into the bloodstream through a vein, resulting in immediate drug effects. Intramuscular injections are delivered into the muscle tissue and typically result in faster absorption than subcutaneous injections but can be more painful. Intradermal injections are administered just below the skin's surface, within the dermis layer, typically used for allergy tests or tuberculosis screening. Each route has its specific applications and is chosen based on the type of medication, the required absorption rate, and the patient's treatment needs.

5. What is one major benefit of vitamin C regarding iron?

- A. It replaces iron in the body**
- B. It decreases iron absorption**
- C. It helps in absorption of iron**
- D. It eliminates the need for iron**

Vitamin C is known for its significant role in enhancing the absorption of non-heme iron, which is the type of iron primarily found in plant-based foods. This is particularly important for individuals who rely on these sources for their iron intake, such as vegetarians or those with dietary restrictions. When vitamin C is consumed alongside iron-rich foods, it reduces the iron from its ferric form to a more soluble ferrous form in the digestive tract. This conversion increases the bioavailability of iron, making it easier for the body to absorb. In contrast, options suggesting that vitamin C replaces, decreases, or eliminates the need for iron misrepresent its function. Vitamin C does not serve as a substitute for iron, nor does it decrease iron absorption; in fact, it actively facilitates the process.

6. What term is used to describe the practice of placing newer items at the front of a shelf in a pharmacy?

- A. Inventory management**
- B. Stock rotation**
- C. Expiration tracking**
- D. Product organization**

The term that describes the practice of placing newer items at the front of a shelf in a pharmacy is stock rotation. This method is crucial in ensuring that older medications are dispensed first while newer stock is positioned behind them. This practice is essential in managing pharmaceuticals effectively, especially since many medications have expiration dates that could lead to inventory becoming unusable if not managed properly. By implementing stock rotation, pharmacies can minimize waste, reduce the risk of dispensing expired products, and ensure that patients receive medications that are both safe and effective. Other terms like inventory management and expiration tracking relate to the broader aspects of pharmaceutical stock control but do not specifically refer to the physical arrangement of products on shelves. Product organization generally encompasses a wider array of sorting and categorization strategies beyond the specific movement of items based on their age and expiration status. Thus, stock rotation stands out as the precise term for this practice.

7. What does a trademark do in relation to a drug?

- A. Protects the drug's formula
- B. Protects a drug's brand name from unauthorized use**
- C. Ensures the drug's effectiveness
- D. Guarantees patient safety

A trademark serves as a legal protection for a drug's brand name, which prevents unauthorized use by other entities. This means that only the company that holds the trademark has the exclusive rights to use that name in marketing and selling the product. A trademark helps differentiate a particular drug from its competitors, allowing consumers to identify it easily and maintain its brand loyalty. This protection does not extend to the drug's formula, effectiveness, or patient safety, as those areas are governed by different types of regulations and protections. Therefore, the correct choice highlights the trademark's role in safeguarding the identity and branding of the drug within the marketplace.

8. What is a commonly used term for a rolling cabinet that dispenses emergency pregnancy medication in hospitals?

- A. Emergency kit
- B. Medication cart
- C. Crash cart**
- D. Supply cabinet

The term "crash cart" is commonly used to refer to a rolling cabinet that contains emergency medications and equipment specifically designed for situations requiring immediate medical intervention, such as cardiac arrest or other acute emergencies. In the context of emergency pregnancy medication, a crash cart would be stocked with drugs necessary to manage complications that may arise during pregnancy or childbirth, ensuring that healthcare providers have quick access to critical medications in urgent situations. The other terms do not accurately describe this specific type of cabinet: an emergency kit is typically a more general term and may not be specifically for medications, a medication cart is generally used for routine medication administration within a hospital, and a supply cabinet does not imply an emergency focus or the specific contents required for urgent medical situations. Thus, the designation of "crash cart" highlights its purpose for immediate response, making it the correct terminology for this scenario.

9. What must be included in the continuing education hours for PTCB recertification?

- A. Pharmacy ethics**
- B. Patient safety**
- C. Pharmacy law**
- D. Drug interactions**

For PTCB recertification, continuing education hours must include training that addresses important aspects of pharmacy practice. Pharmacy law is a critical component of these requirements because it ensures that technicians remain informed about the legal regulations governing pharmacy operations, dispensing practices, and patient safety. This knowledge is essential for compliance with state and federal laws, safeguarding public health, and maintaining a high standard of care in the pharmacy environment. Including pharmacy law in the continuing education ensures that all pharmacy technicians are updated on any changes or new regulations that might affect their practice, which is crucial for both legal compliance and professional development. While topics like patient safety, pharmacy ethics, and drug interactions are also vital for a pharmacy technician's education, the specific requirement for the recertification process emphasizes the necessity of staying current with the legal aspects of pharmacy practice.

10. Which medication is exempt from the PPPA locking requirements?

- A. Digoxin**
- B. Estradiol**
- C. Nitroglycerin**
- D. Albuterol**

The exemption of certain medications from the Poison Prevention Packaging Act (PPPA) locking requirements is based on the necessity for the medication to be accessible to patients in specific circumstances. Nitroglycerin is exempt from these requirements primarily because it is often prescribed for patients with cardiovascular conditions and is used in emergency situations to relieve angina attacks. Accessibility is crucial in emergencies, as patients may need to reach for their nitroglycerin quickly to alleviate chest pain. If these tablets or sprays were in child-resistant packaging, it could pose a risk to patients needing immediate relief, potentially leading to serious health consequences. In contrast, digoxin and estradiol are often prescribed for chronic conditions but do not have the same emergency requirement for immediate access. Albuterol, while a quick-relief medication for asthma, is still generally required to have child-resistant packaging to prevent accidental ingestion by children, thus maintaining the safety provided by PPPA. The decision to exempt nitroglycerin reflects a balance between safety and the critical need for rapid access to lifesaving medications.

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://massachusetts-pharmacytech.examzify.com>

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