

Medical Terminology for Health Professions 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 term "postmortem" refer to?**
 - A. Before death**
 - B. During illness**
 - C. After death**
 - D. During pregnancy**

- 2. Which cavity includes the urinary bladder and reproductive organs?**
 - A. pelvic cavity**
 - B. thoracic cavity**
 - C. spinal cavity**
 - D. cranial cavity**

- 3. Which term is used to describe a joining of two bones at a joint?**
 - A. arthroscopy**
 - B. arthroplasty**
 - C. arthrodesis**
 - D. arthroscopy**

- 4. What medical term refers to a groove or split?**
 - A. fistula**
 - B. fissure**
 - C. artery**
 - D. lith**

- 5. Which type of glands release hormones into the bloodstream?**
 - A. Exocrine glands**
 - B. Endocrine glands**
 - C. Lymphatic glands**
 - D. Digestive glands**

6. What transmission occurs through contact with contaminated respiratory droplets spread by a cough or sneeze?

- A. Vector-borne transmission**
- B. Airborne transmission**
- C. Fecal-oral transmission**
- D. Contact transmission**

7. The prefix 'intra' means which of the following?

- A. Outside**
- B. Between**
- C. Within**
- D. Good**

8. What is the purpose of a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order?

- A. To refuse pain medication**
- B. To instruct against performing CPR if heartbeat or breathing stops**
- C. To consent to all medical treatments**
- D. To mandate organ donation**

9. What does indirect contact transmission refer to?

- A. Exposure through airborne particles**
- B. Infection via contaminated surfaces**
- C. Direct blood exposure**
- D. Transmission through water sources**

10. What does the suffix "-gram" indicate in medical terminology?

- A. A record of**
- B. A surgical procedure**
- C. A type of examination**
- D. A diagnosis**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does the term "postmortem" refer to?

- A. Before death
- B. During illness
- C. After death**
- D. During pregnancy

The term "postmortem" refers to events or examinations that occur after death. In a medical context, it is often associated with autopsies or analyses conducted to determine the cause of death, as well as the study of various bodily processes that occur after an individual has died. This term is derived from Latin, where "post" means "after" and "mortem" means "death." Understanding this term is particularly important in fields related to forensic medicine, pathology, and various health professions where comprehending the timeline of health events is crucial. It is distinct from other terms that describe conditions or times related to life, such as those that refer to periods before death or during pregnancy.

2. Which cavity includes the urinary bladder and reproductive organs?

- A. pelvic cavity**
- B. thoracic cavity
- C. spinal cavity
- D. cranial cavity

The pelvic cavity is the correct answer because it encompasses the area that houses the urinary bladder, the reproductive organs, and other structures such as parts of the intestines. This cavity is located below the abdominal cavity and is bordered by the pelvic bone. In contrast, the thoracic cavity is located in the upper body and contains vital organs such as the heart and lungs, but does not include the urinary bladder or reproductive organs. The spinal cavity, also known as the vertebral cavity, surrounds the spinal cord and does not contain any of the organs related to the urinary or reproductive systems. The cranial cavity, on the other hand, encases the brain and is not related to the organs mentioned in the question. Thus, the pelvic cavity is specifically designated for the organs mentioned and plays a crucial role in functions related to both the urinary and reproductive systems.

3. Which term is used to describe a joining of two bones at a joint?

- A. arthroscopy**
- B. arthroplasty**
- C. arthrodesis**
- D. arthroscopy**

The term that describes the joining of two bones at a joint is "arthrodesis." This medical procedure involves the surgical fusion of bones within a joint, effectively immobilizing that joint. Arthrodesis is often performed to alleviate pain, especially when there is joint degeneration or severe arthritis, allowing the bones to heal together in a fixed position. Arthroscopy, found in two of the choices, refers to a minimally invasive surgical procedure that allows doctors to visualize and work inside a joint using an arthroscope. While it doesn't involve the joining of bones, it is used for diagnosis and treatment of joint conditions. Arthroplasty, on the other hand, is the surgical reconstruction or replacement of a joint, typically to restore function after damage due to injury or degeneration. This procedure aims to replace or repair the damaged joint rather than directly joining the two bones. The correct term, therefore, is "arthrodesis," which is focused specifically on the fusion of two bones at a joint, making it the appropriate choice for this question.

4. What medical term refers to a groove or split?

- A. fistula**
- B. fissure**
- C. artery**
- D. lith**

The term that refers to a groove or split is "fissure." In medical terminology, a fissure often describes a natural cleft or division in an organ or structure, such as a crack-like sore in the skin or mucous membrane. This term is commonly used in various medical contexts, such as dermatology (for skin fissures) or in discussions about anatomical features (like those in the brain or digestive tract). The other terms provided relate to different concepts: "fistula" describes an abnormal connection between two body parts; "artery" refers to blood vessels that carry oxygenated blood from the heart; and "lith" generally pertains to stones or calculus in the body, such as gallstones or kidney stones. Understanding these distinctions helps clarify the specific meaning of "fissure" as a groove or split within a medical framework.

5. Which type of glands release hormones into the bloodstream?

- A. Exocrine glands**
- B. Endocrine glands**
- C. Lymphatic glands**
- D. Digestive glands**

Endocrine glands are specifically designed to secrete hormones directly into the bloodstream. This allows the hormones to travel throughout the body and exert their effects on various organs and tissues, regulating numerous physiological processes such as metabolism, growth, reproduction, and mood. Unlike exocrine glands, which release their substances through ducts to external surfaces or into cavities (such as sweat glands and salivary glands), endocrine glands operate without ducts, ensuring a direct delivery system for hormones into the circulation. Lymphatic glands primarily refer to structures associated with the lymphatic system, such as lymph nodes, which do not release hormones but instead are involved in immune function. Digestive glands, while they secrete substances that aid in digestion, do not release hormones into the bloodstream either; they typically have ducts leading to the digestive tract. Therefore, the defining characteristic of endocrine glands is their role in hormone secretion into the circulatory system, making them crucial for maintaining homeostasis in the body.

6. What transmission occurs through contact with contaminated respiratory droplets spread by a cough or sneeze?

- A. Vector-borne transmission**
- B. Airborne transmission**
- C. Fecal-oral transmission**
- D. Contact transmission**

The correct answer is airborne transmission. This type of transmission occurs when contaminated respiratory droplets, which can contain infectious agents, are expelled into the air through actions like coughing or sneezing. These droplets can stay suspended in the air for varying lengths of time and can be inhaled by individuals, leading to the spread of respiratory illnesses. Airborne transmission requires a certain size of droplets that can remain airborne over longer distances, distinguishing it from other modes of transmission. In contrast, vector-borne transmission involves the spread of pathogens through vectors such as insects, which is not related to respiratory droplets. Fecal-oral transmission occurs when pathogens are ingested through contaminated food or water and is also not linked to respiratory droplets. Contact transmission typically involves the direct transfer of pathogens through physical touch, rather than through the air, making it distinct from airborne transmission. Understanding these differences is crucial in clinical settings and public health to implement appropriate prevention strategies.

7. The prefix 'intra' means which of the following?

- A. Outside**
- B. Between**
- C. Within**
- D. Good**

The prefix 'intra' originates from Latin, where it means "within" or "inside." In medical terminology, this prefix is often used to indicate something that occurs inside a structure or a particular area of the body. For example, "intravenous" refers to administering something directly within a vein, and "intracellular" refers to processes that occur within a cell. Understanding the meaning of prefixes is crucial in medical terminology as they provide significant context about the location or scope of a condition, treatment, or anatomical reference. In contrast, alternatives like "outside," "between," and "good" represent different concepts. Thus, "within" accurately reflects the meaning associated with 'intra.'

8. What is the purpose of a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order?

- A. To refuse pain medication**
- B. To instruct against performing CPR if heartbeat or breathing stops**
- C. To consent to all medical treatments**
- D. To mandate organ donation**

The purpose of a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order is to instruct healthcare providers not to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in the event that a patient's heartbeat or breathing stops. This decision is made by the patient or their authorized representative, often as part of a broader conversation about end-of-life care and preferences regarding medical interventions. The DNR order specifically pertains to the emergency measures intended to revive an individual, allowing for a natural death in cases where the patient would not want life-saving measures to be employed. This concept contrasts sharply with the options related to refusal of pain medication, consent to all medical treatments, or mandating organ donation, which do not capture the intent and specific guidance of a DNR order regarding resuscitation efforts.

9. What does indirect contact transmission refer to?

- A. Exposure through airborne particles
- B. Infection via contaminated surfaces**
- C. Direct blood exposure
- D. Transmission through water sources

Indirect contact transmission refers specifically to the process of infection occurring through contaminated surfaces, which is why the identification of this option as correct is accurate. In this mode of transmission, pathogens can survive on various surfaces or objects, such as doorknobs, utensils, or medical equipment. When a person touches these contaminated items and then touches their face, mouth, or open wounds, they may introduce the pathogens into their body, leading to infection. Understanding the mechanics of indirect contact transmission emphasizes the importance of hygiene practices, including handwashing and regular disinfection of surfaces, as they are vital in preventing the spread of infections in both healthcare settings and everyday life. The other options pertain to distinct modes of transmission. Airborne particles refer to disease spread through tiny droplets that remain suspended in the air, which is not classified as indirect contact. Direct blood exposure involves immediate transfer of infection through blood, such as via needles, representing direct contact rather than indirect. Lastly, transmission through water sources typically refers to waterborne diseases where pathogens are spread through contaminated water, again a different transmission route. Each of these alternatives describes mechanisms that do not align with the definition of indirect contact transmission.

10. What does the suffix "-gram" indicate in medical terminology?

- A. A record of**
- B. A surgical procedure
- C. A type of examination
- D. A diagnosis

The suffix "-gram" in medical terminology specifically denotes a record or a written representation of data. It is derived from the Greek word 'gramma,' meaning something written. This term is commonly used in various medical contexts to indicate the results of imaging studies or tests, such as an electrocardiogram (ECG), which records the electrical activity of the heart, or a mammogram, which is an X-ray of breast tissue. These records are crucial for diagnosing conditions, monitoring health, and guiding treatment decisions. The other options represent different concepts relevant to medical terminology. Surgical procedures often use the suffix "-ectomy" for removal or "-plasty" for repair, while types of examinations might be represented by terms like "scope," indicating visual examination. Diagnoses are usually indicated by terms such as "itis" for inflammation or "osis" for a condition, rather than using "-gram." Understanding the specific meanings of suffixes like "-gram" helps in comprehending the larger context of medical documentation and communication.

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://medtermsforforhealthpros.examzify.com>

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

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