

Nationally Registered Certified Coding Specialist (NRCCS) Practice Exam (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 type of cells are primarily responsible for protecting the body against infection?**
 - A. Platelets**
 - B. Thrombocytes**
 - C. Erythrocytes**
 - D. Leukocytes**

- 2. When a physician decides to have an electrocardiogram performed during a routine examination, how is it coded?**
 - A. As a primary procedure**
 - B. As an additional service**
 - C. As a shift procedure**
 - D. As a separate procedure**

- 3. What does the "X" represent in certain ICD-10 codes?**
 - A. A placeholder for initial encounters**
 - B. A placeholder for specific conditions**
 - C. A placeholder for future expansion**
 - D. A placeholder for diagnostic codes**

- 4. Which type of tissue is involved in contraction and movement of the body?**
 - A. Connective tissue**
 - B. Muscle tissue**
 - C. Epithelial tissue**
 - D. Nervous tissue**

- 5. Mental, Behavioral, and Neurodevelopmental Disorders are classified under which chapter of the ICD-10-CM?**
 - A. Chapter V**
 - B. Chapter IV**
 - C. Chapter VI**
 - D. Chapter VII**

- 6. Faxes can be received how many hours a day?**
- A. 12**
 - B. 16**
 - C. 24**
 - D. 48**
- 7. Which of the following is NOT considered a special sense?**
- A. Smell**
 - B. Taste**
 - C. Touch**
 - D. Hearing**
- 8. In ICD-10 coding, what does 'D' specify when used as a 7th character?**
- A. Diagnosis**
 - B. Subsequent encounter**
 - C. Initial encounter**
 - D. Follow-up encounter**
- 9. In ICD-10-CM, which letter is used as a dummy placeholder?**
- A. X**
 - B. Y**
 - C. Z**
 - D. A**
- 10. What condition does ICD-10-CM Chapter XV specifically cover?**
- A. Pervasive Developmental Disorders**
 - B. Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Puerperium**
 - C. Accidents and Injuries**
 - D. Chronic Respiratory Diseases**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which type of cells are primarily responsible for protecting the body against infection?

- A. Platelets**
- B. Thrombocytes**
- C. Erythrocytes**
- D. Leukocytes**

Leukocytes, or white blood cells, are primarily responsible for protecting the body against infections. They play a crucial role in the immune system by identifying and attacking pathogens such as bacteria, viruses, and other foreign invaders. There are several types of leukocytes, including neutrophils, lymphocytes, monocytes, eosinophils, and basophils, each serving specific functions in the immune response. This includes the activation of other immune cells, the production of antibodies, and the direct destruction of pathogens. In contrast, the other options do not play a primary role in immune defense. Platelets, or thrombocytes, are involved in blood clotting and preventing bleeding rather than fighting infections. Erythrocytes, or red blood cells, are responsible for transporting oxygen from the lungs to tissues and carbon dioxide from the tissues back to the lungs. Thrombocytes, while another term for platelets, again relate to clotting rather than immune protection. Thus, leukocytes are the key players in the body's defenses against infections, making them the correct answer.

2. When a physician decides to have an electrocardiogram performed during a routine examination, how is it coded?

- A. As a primary procedure**
- B. As an additional service**
- C. As a shift procedure**
- D. As a separate procedure**

When coding for an electrocardiogram (ECG) performed during a routine examination, it is categorized as a separate procedure. This coding reflects the fact that the ECG is distinct from the primary evaluation or treatment being performed. Even though the physician might be including it as part of a comprehensive assessment, the ECG itself is a standalone procedure that requires its own coding, which typically involves using specific codes from the CPT (Current Procedural Terminology) system. Characterizing it as a separate procedure acknowledges its unique clinical value and procedural demands, even in the context of a routine office visit. This distinction is essential in maintaining accurate medical billing and ensuring appropriate reimbursement for services provided. The other classifications, such as primary procedure or additional service, do not accurately capture the independent nature of the ECG when compared to the comprehensive evaluation being performed during the examination. Hence, the separation in coding leads to clearer documentation and understanding of each service rendered during the patient's visit.

3. What does the "X" represent in certain ICD-10 codes?

- A. A placeholder for initial encounters
- B. A placeholder for specific conditions
- C. A placeholder for future expansion**
- D. A placeholder for diagnostic codes

The "X" in certain ICD-10 codes serves as a placeholder for future expansion. This allows the coding system to maintain specificity and flexibility as new medical knowledge or conditions emerge. It ensures that the codes can accommodate additional characters if necessary, helping to keep the coding system comprehensive and up to date. For instance, when a specific condition evolves or when new medical classifications are introduced, the use of "X" provides a mechanism to add detail without disrupting the existing structure of the coding system. In contrast, other options like placeholders for initial encounters or diagnostic codes do not accurately capture the function of "X"; instead, they refer to different aspects of coding. The role of "X" is purely to allow for expansion rather than to mark initial or specific conditions. This design supports the continuous advancement of the coding system while maintaining the integrity of existing codes.

4. Which type of tissue is involved in contraction and movement of the body?

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

Muscle tissue is specifically designed for contraction and movement within the body. It is composed of cells that can shorten and generate force, enabling various types of movements. There are three main types of muscle tissue: skeletal muscle, which facilitates voluntary movements of the skeleton; cardiac muscle, which makes up the heart and is responsible for pumping blood; and smooth muscle, which is found in the walls of hollow organs and assists in involuntary movements. The other types of tissues do not primarily serve the function of contraction and movement. Connective tissue mainly supports and binds other tissues together, providing strength, elasticity, and metabolic functions. Epithelial tissue covers and protects body surfaces and lines cavities but does not have the ability to contract. Nervous tissue is responsible for transmitting signals and coordinating bodily functions but is not involved in producing movement by contraction. Therefore, muscle tissue is the correct answer as it directly relates to movement through its unique contractile properties.

5. Mental, Behavioral, and Neurodevelopmental Disorders are classified under which chapter of the ICD-10-CM?

- A. Chapter V**
- B. Chapter IV**
- C. Chapter VI**
- D. Chapter VII**

Mental, Behavioral, and Neurodevelopmental Disorders are classified under Chapter V of the ICD-10-CM, which is specifically dedicated to these conditions. This chapter includes a range of disorders such as mood disorders, anxiety disorders, psychotic disorders, and neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Chapter V focuses on the complexity and variety of mental health issues, providing a framework for healthcare providers to diagnose and treat these conditions appropriately. This classification helps ensure that affected individuals receive the necessary care and resources tailored to their mental health needs, thereby supporting the overall well-being of patients. The other chapters mentioned do not pertain to mental health disorders. For example, Chapter IV addresses diseases of the nervous system, and Chapter VI concerns diseases of the eye and adnexa, while Chapter VII deals with diseases of the ear and mastoid process. Each chapter in the ICD-10-CM is meticulously organized to cover specific areas of health, ensuring clarity in coding and documentation practices.

6. Faxes can be received how many hours a day?

- A. 12**
- B. 16**
- C. 24**
- D. 48**

Faxes can be received 24 hours a day because modern fax machines and systems are designed to operate continuously, allowing for the reception of documents at any time. This capability is particularly important in healthcare and other business environments where timely communication is critical. Continuous operation means that even during off-hours, weekends, or holidays, a fax can be sent and received without interruption, ensuring that important information is always accessible. This enhances workflow and service delivery in various settings, including hospitals, clinics, and offices that rely on faxes for communication.

7. Which of the following is NOT considered a special sense?

- A. Smell**
- B. Taste**
- C. Touch**
- D. Hearing**

The reasoning behind identifying touch as not being considered a special sense lies in the classification of the senses. Special senses refer to specific modalities that have dedicated organs and are closely linked to particular sensory organs and pathways. These include smell, taste, hearing, and vision, which are all associated with specialized receptors located in complex sensory structures—the olfactory bulbs for smell, taste buds for taste, the cochlea for hearing, and the retina for vision. Touch, on the other hand, is categorized as a general sense, as it does not have a single, specialized organ. Instead, it is mediated by a wide range of receptors dispersed throughout the skin and deeper tissues, providing information about pressure, temperature, pain, and proprioception. This distinction is important in understanding how the body processes different types of sensory information and can help in recognizing the broader categories of sensory perception.

8. In ICD-10 coding, what does 'D' specify when used as a 7th character?

- A. Diagnosis**
- B. Subsequent encounter**
- C. Initial encounter**
- D. Follow-up encounter**

In ICD-10 coding, the use of 'D' as a 7th character specifically indicates a "Subsequent encounter." This character is part of the coding structure meant to provide additional information about the encounter with the healthcare provider. When a condition is being treated, the initial encounter typically refers to the first time that the patient is seen for that specific issue. Subsequent encounters, represented by 'D,' signify visits that happen after the initial treatment, such as follow-up visits for ongoing management, rehabilitation, or check-ins where the patient continues to receive care for the same condition. This clarification helps in properly tracking the treatment progress and outcomes over time, ensuring that healthcare professionals can manage the patient's care effectively. For accurate coding, it is essential to use the correct 7th character as it impacts how the encounter is billed and how the patient's care is documented. The other options refer to different stages of treatment encounters, which do not align with what 'D' specifically signifies in this context.

9. In ICD-10-CM, which letter is used as a dummy placeholder?

- A. X**
- B. Y**
- C. Z**
- D. A**

In ICD-10-CM, the letter used as a dummy placeholder is indeed X. This placeholder character is used in certain codes to allow for the proper formatting of the code, especially in cases where additional characters are needed to reach the full code length of seven characters. The inclusion of X as a placeholder helps maintain the integrity of the coding structure and ensures that the system can appropriately categorize and index various diagnoses. For example, if a code requires additional specificity but only a certain number of characters are provided, X can be inserted to fill the gap, indicating that the position is intentionally left blank for future coding requirements. This practice is essential in keeping codes consistent and avoiding potential errors in coding and billing processes. Other letters such as Y, Z, and A do not serve this specific purpose within the ICD-10-CM coding system. Y may be reserved for other functions, while Z is often used to denote certain categories of codes related to factors influencing health status and contact with health services. A is primarily not utilized as a placeholder at all.

10. What condition does ICD-10-CM Chapter XV specifically cover?

- A. Pervasive Developmental Disorders**
- B. Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Puerperium**
- C. Accidents and Injuries**
- D. Chronic Respiratory Diseases**

ICD-10-CM Chapter XV specifically covers "Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Puerperium." This chapter is dedicated to conditions that are directly related to pregnancy and the processes of giving birth, as well as the postpartum period. It includes codes for various complications that may arise during pregnancy, labor, and the recovery period after childbirth. The focus of this chapter is critical as it provides healthcare providers with the necessary coding to document and report these specific conditions accurately. This allows for better tracking of maternal and neonatal health outcomes. Additionally, accurate coding in this area is vital for healthcare billing and reimbursement processes, ensuring that providers are compensated for the care they deliver to pregnant patients and newly delivered mothers. Understanding this chapter is fundamental for those in the field of medical coding, as it encompasses a wide range of scenarios that require precise documentation and may influence patient management and public health statistics.

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://nrccs.examzify.com>

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

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