

NCCT Infection Control & Safety 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 is the significance of using color-coded waste disposal systems?**
 - A. To ensure proper organization of waste in the facility**
 - B. To ensure proper disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous waste**
 - C. To make waste collection faster**
 - D. To simplify the waste-sharing process**
- 2. What is a common practice for maintaining a sterile field in a clinical setting?**
 - A. Using unsterilized instruments**
 - B. Keeping sterile items above waist level**
 - C. Talking over the sterile area**
 - D. Breaching the field to get supplies**
- 3. What action is crucial before and after patient contact?**
 - A. Wearing gloves at all times**
 - B. Using alcohol-based hand sanitizers**
 - C. Changing gowns frequently**
 - D. Using air purifiers**
- 4. While transferring blood from a syringe to an evacuated tube, what is the first action after blood splatters into the phlebotomist's eyes?**
 - A. Report the incident to supervisor/manager**
 - B. Clean the area with a tissue**
 - C. Document the event**
 - D. Rinse the eyes with water**
- 5. Under which circumstances should a phlebotomist use two pairs of gloves?**
 - A. When handling non-infectious samples**
 - B. When working with hazardous chemicals**
 - C. When the possibility of splashing blood exists**
 - D. When performing routine venipuncture**

- 6. After cleaning a needlestick injury, what is important for the phlebotomist to remember next?**
- A. Dispose of the needle properly**
 - B. File an incident report**
 - C. Inform patients about the risk**
 - D. Perform a self-assessment**
- 7. After drawing a patient for an HIV, HBV, and HCV antibody test, the phlebotomist accidentally sticks his finger. What is the next step?**
- A. Call the patient's doctor**
 - B. Wash the site with soap and water for a minimum of 30 seconds**
 - C. Apply a bandage**
 - D. Document the incident**
- 8. Which of the following is considered a standard precaution for infection control?**
- A. Only using gloves when blood is visible.**
 - B. Washing hands thoroughly before and after patient contact.**
 - C. Using disinfectants only on surfaces.**
 - D. Wearing a mask at all times in healthcare settings.**
- 9. Which microorganism is commonly associated with hospital-acquired infections?**
- A. Escherichia coli**
 - B. Streptococcus pneumoniae**
 - C. Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus**
 - D. Clostridium difficile**
- 10. What is the purpose of isolation precautions?**
- A. To allow more visitors in medical facilities**
 - B. To prevent the spread of infections from infected patients**
 - C. To improve the comfort of patients**
 - D. To promote faster recovery in patients**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the significance of using color-coded waste disposal systems?
 - A. To ensure proper organization of waste in the facility
 - B. To ensure proper disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous waste**
 - C. To make waste collection faster
 - D. To simplify the waste-sharing process

The significance of using color-coded waste disposal systems primarily lies in their ability to facilitate the proper disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous waste. This system categorizes different types of waste based on their risk level, allowing healthcare workers and facility staff to quickly identify how to handle, store, and dispose of various materials safely. Using distinct colors for different types of waste helps prevent contamination and accidental exposure to hazardous substances, which is crucial in settings such as hospitals and clinics where infection control is a priority. For instance, red bags may denote biohazardous waste, while blue or green bags may indicate regular trash or recyclables. This clear visual cue reduces the likelihood of cross-contamination and non-compliance with safety regulations, ultimately protecting patients and staff from potential harm. Additionally, the color coding fosters a culture of safety among workers, as they become accustomed to these visual codes and can act swiftly and correctly in waste management scenarios. Thus, the primary significance of this system is grounded in enhancing infection control measures and ensuring health and safety standards are met within the healthcare environment.

2. What is a common practice for maintaining a sterile field in a clinical setting?
 - A. Using unsterilized instruments
 - B. Keeping sterile items above waist level**
 - C. Talking over the sterile area
 - D. Breaching the field to get supplies

Keeping sterile items above waist level is a common practice for maintaining a sterile field in a clinical setting. This practice helps to minimize the risk of contamination from non-sterile surfaces, as it reduces the chance that sterile items will come into contact with potentially contaminated areas. By ensuring that sterile instruments and materials are elevated, healthcare professionals can better protect the integrity of the sterile field, which is essential during procedures where infection control is critical. In contrast, using unsterilized instruments would directly compromise the sterility of the field, as these items could introduce pathogens. Talking over the sterile area raises the risk of airborne contamination, which could settle on the sterile items. Breaching the field to retrieve supplies disrupts the sterile environment and could lead to contamination, making it necessary to maintain strict protocols to avoid such breaches. Maintaining the integrity of a sterile field is vital for patient safety and infection control practices in healthcare settings.

3. What action is crucial before and after patient contact?

- A. Wearing gloves at all times
- B. Using alcohol-based hand sanitizers**
- C. Changing gowns frequently
- D. Using air purifiers

Using alcohol-based hand sanitizers is crucial before and after patient contact because they effectively reduce the number of germs on hands, thereby preventing the transmission of infections. Hand hygiene is a fundamental practice in infection control, as it helps eliminate pathogens that can be spread through direct contact with patients or contaminated surfaces. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers, specifically, are convenient and efficient for maintaining hand hygiene in healthcare settings, and they can rapidly kill a wide range of microorganisms. While wearing gloves can provide a barrier against infection, it is essential that healthcare providers still practice hand hygiene before putting on gloves and after removing them. Changing gowns frequently is important for certain situations but is not a primary action focused directly on hand hygiene. Air purifiers may help in improving air quality, but they do not address the need for hand hygiene in relation to direct patient contact. Thus, hand sanitization is a critical and direct measure to ensure safety in healthcare environments.

4. While transferring blood from a syringe to an evacuated tube, what is the first action after blood splatters into the phlebotomist's eyes?

- A. Report the incident to supervisor/manager
- B. Clean the area with a tissue
- C. Document the event
- D. Rinse the eyes with water**

The first action after blood splatters into the phlebotomist's eyes should be to rinse the eyes with water. This immediate action is crucial to minimize potential exposure to infectious agents that may be present in the blood. Rinsing the eyes helps to flush out any contaminants effectively and reduces the risk of infection or injury. In situations involving exposure to bloodborne pathogens, it is vital to prioritize personal safety and health. Cleaning the area with a tissue or documenting the event can come later but should not delay the immediate safeguarding of one's health. Reporting the incident to a supervisor or manager is also an important step, but it should occur after ensuring that the eyes are rinsed thoroughly to prevent any adverse effects resulting from the exposure. Immediate decontamination is paramount in these scenarios, making rinsing the eyes the first priority.

5. Under which circumstances should a phlebotomist use two pairs of gloves?

A. When handling non-infectious samples

B. When working with hazardous chemicals

C. When the possibility of splashing blood exists

D. When performing routine venipuncture

Using two pairs of gloves is recommended in situations where there is a risk of splashing blood or other potentially infectious materials. The purpose of using double gloves is to enhance protection, ensuring that if the outer layer becomes compromised—such as through a puncture or tear—the inner layer still provides a barrier against exposure to bloodborne pathogens. This is particularly important in phlebotomy, where splatter can occur, and the risk of contamination needs to be minimized for both the healthcare worker and the patient. In other scenarios, such as handling non-infectious samples or performing routine venipuncture without identified hazards, standard single gloves suffice. Similarly, while working with hazardous chemicals may require specific types of gloves, they do not typically necessitate the use of two pairs unless there is a high risk of exposure or spillage.

6. After cleaning a needlestick injury, what is important for the phlebotomist to remember next?

A. Dispose of the needle properly

B. File an incident report

C. Inform patients about the risk

D. Perform a self-assessment

After a needlestick injury, it is essential for the phlebotomist to file an incident report. This step is crucial for several reasons. First, it ensures that the incident is officially documented, which is important for tracking potential hazards and preventing future occurrences. Reporting the injury contributes to workplace safety and helps identify patterns that could indicate systemic issues. Moreover, filing an incident report can initiate necessary follow-up procedures, including medical evaluations and testing for bloodborne pathogens. It also prepares the organization to address any potential liability issues and comply with regulatory requirements. While disposing of the needle properly is a critical step that should happen immediately after the injury to prevent further risk, the documentation of the incident is crucial for long-term safety and health monitoring. Other actions, such as informing patients about risks or performing a self-assessment, are important but secondary to the immediate requirement of completing the necessary reporting process to ensure proper care and prevention measures are instituted following the incident.

7. After drawing a patient for an HIV, HBV, and HCV antibody test, the phlebotomist accidentally sticks his finger. What is the next step?

A. Call the patient's doctor

B. Wash the site with soap and water for a minimum of 30 seconds

C. Apply a bandage

D. Document the incident

Washing the site with soap and water for a minimum of 30 seconds is crucial in this scenario because it helps to significantly reduce the risk of infection after a needlestick injury. The immediate cleaning of the wound can remove any potential pathogens that may have been introduced through the stick. In the event of an accidental needlestick, it is essential to perform first aid promptly. The CDC recommends cleansing the area thoroughly to minimize the chance of bloodborne pathogens affecting the individual who was injured. This step can promote healing and prevent complications associated with infections. Following this first step, other actions such as informing a supervisor, documenting the incident, or seeking medical evaluation may be necessary, but the primary and immediate response should always be to wash the affected area to ensure proper care and minimize health risks.

8. Which of the following is considered a standard precaution for infection control?

A. Only using gloves when blood is visible.

B. Washing hands thoroughly before and after patient contact.

C. Using disinfectants only on surfaces.

D. Wearing a mask at all times in healthcare settings.

Washing hands thoroughly before and after patient contact is a fundamental practice in infection control and is considered a standard precaution. Hand hygiene is one of the most effective ways to prevent the transmission of infections in healthcare settings. When healthcare providers wash their hands, they reduce the microbial load on their hands, minimizing the risk of spreading pathogens to patients or acquiring infections themselves. Handwashing should be performed not just when blood or bodily fluids are visible but as a routine practice to maintain overall hygiene. It is essential before and after any interaction with patients, after touching potentially contaminated surfaces, and after removing gloves to ensure that any pathogens that may have been acquired are removed. Other options provide insights into infection control but do not encompass the broad and universally applicable nature of standard precautions as hand hygiene does. For example, limiting glove use to situations where blood is visible may lead to neglecting scenarios where pathogens are present but not immediately apparent. Similarly, the exclusive use of disinfectants on surfaces does not account for the need for hand hygiene. Lastly, wearing a mask continuously may be necessary in specific circumstances, but it isn't a universal standard precaution applicable to all situations in healthcare.

9. Which microorganism is commonly associated with hospital-acquired infections?

- A. Escherichia coli**
- B. Streptococcus pneumoniae**
- C. Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus**
- D. Clostridium difficile**

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, often abbreviated as MRSA, is commonly associated with hospital-acquired infections, also known as healthcare-associated infections. MRSA is a strain of Staphylococcus aureus that has developed resistance to methicillin and several other antibiotics, making it particularly challenging to treat. In hospital settings, patients often have compromised immune systems, and invasive procedures can introduce these resistant bacteria directly into the body. MRSA is typically transmitted through direct skin contact or contact with contaminated surfaces or equipment. The prevalence of MRSA in healthcare facilities is a significant concern due to its ability to lead to serious infections, such as skin infections, pneumonia, and bloodstream infections. While other microorganisms like Escherichia coli, Streptococcus pneumoniae, and Clostridium difficile are also known to cause infections within healthcare settings, MRSA's particular resistance to common antibiotics sets it apart as a leading cause of hospital-acquired infections. This highlights the importance of infection control measures, such as hand hygiene, use of personal protective equipment, and proper sterilization techniques, to prevent the spread of MRSA in hospitals.

10. What is the purpose of isolation precautions?

- A. To allow more visitors in medical facilities**
- B. To prevent the spread of infections from infected patients**
- C. To improve the comfort of patients**
- D. To promote faster recovery in patients**

The primary purpose of isolation precautions is to prevent the spread of infections from infected patients to others, including healthcare personnel and other patients. Isolation precautions are critical in controlling the transmission of infectious agents, particularly in settings such as hospitals, where vulnerable populations may be present. By implementing these measures, healthcare facilities aim to break the chain of infection and maintain a safe environment for all patients and staff. This involves specific protocols, including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), designated isolation rooms, and stringent hygiene practices, thereby significantly reducing the risk of infection spread.

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://ncctinfectioncontsafety.examzify.com>

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