

NCLEX Archer Pharmacology 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

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- 1. What adverse effect should the nurse be aware of when caring for a patient receiving doxorubicin?**
 - A. Urine discoloration**
 - B. Pulmonary congestion**
 - C. Hirsutism**
 - D. Pruritus**

- 2. Which systemic effect is NOT associated with the use of topical glucocorticoids?**
 - A. Mood changes**
 - B. Osteoporosis**
 - C. Liver toxicity**
 - D. Adrenal insufficiency**

- 3. What is a potential side effect of using digoxin that patients should be made aware of?**
 - A. Increased appetite**
 - B. Visual disturbances**
 - C. Dry mouth**
 - D. Joint pain**

- 4. What should a nurse do if a client with end-stage renal disease is not achieving the desired outcome from sevelamer?**
 - A. Monitor the client's diet closely**
 - B. Stop the medication immediately**
 - C. Increase the sevelamer dosage**
 - D. Switch to a different medication**

- 5. What is the significant effect of cisplatin that the nurse should monitor for?**
 - A. Increased appetite**
 - B. Bone marrow suppression**
 - C. Severe migraines**
 - D. Weight gain**

6. When caring for a patient on lithium, which medication should be avoided to prevent toxicity?

- A. Venlafaxine**
- B. Hydrochlorothiazide**
- C. Gabapentin**
- D. Losartan**

7. Which patient statement indicates a misunderstanding in the administration of insulin glargine?

- A. "I will take this insulin right before my meals."**
- B. "I should roll this vial of insulin before removing it with the syringe."**
- C. "This insulin will help control my glucose for 24 hours."**
- D. "I can only inject this insulin into my abdomen."**

8. While educating a patient on warfarin use, which foods should the LPN advise the patient to avoid?

- A. Peanut butter**
- B. Spinach**
- C. Almonds**
- D. Rice**

9. What key information should be included when teaching a client about epoetin alfa?

- A. This medication will decrease your risk for infection.**
- B. You may notice black tarry stools while on this medication.**
- C. This medication may raise your blood pressure.**
- D. Take this medication with food rich in Vitamin C.**

10. When administering polyethylene glycol for constipation, which statements are correct?

- A. Mix the powder with any beverage that the patient enjoys.**
- B. Administer at the same time every day.**
- C. Administer with meals.**
- D. Dilute the powder with 8 oz of water.**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What adverse effect should the nurse be aware of when caring for a patient receiving doxorubicin?

- A. Urine discoloration**
- B. Pulmonary congestion**
- C. Hirsutism**
- D. Pruritus**

When caring for a patient receiving doxorubicin, it is crucial to be aware of the potential for pulmonary congestion as an adverse effect. Doxorubicin is an anthracycline chemotherapy agent known for its effectiveness in treating various cancers. However, one of its serious side effects is cardiotoxicity, which can lead to heart failure. This could manifest as pulmonary congestion due to fluid accumulation in the lungs as the heart's pumping ability diminishes. Monitoring for signs of pulmonary congestion, such as dyspnea or abnormal lung sounds, is important for early detection and timely intervention. This aspect of care is vital since pulmonary congestion can significantly impact a patient's respiratory status and overall well-being. Thus, recognizing this potential complication is essential for nurses administering doxorubicin and managing patient care effectively. While other adverse effects like urine discoloration, hirsutism, and pruritus may occur with various medications or treatments, they are not directly associated with the primary concerns when administering doxorubicin, making awareness of pulmonary congestion especially critical in this context.

2. Which systemic effect is NOT associated with the use of topical glucocorticoids?

- A. Mood changes**
- B. Osteoporosis**
- C. Liver toxicity**
- D. Adrenal insufficiency**

The appropriate recognition of systemic effects associated with the use of topical glucocorticoids hinges on understanding their pharmacology and potential side effects. Topical glucocorticoids are primarily designed to exert their effects locally on the skin, which minimizes systemic absorption compared to oral or injectable forms of glucocorticoids. However, when absorbed systemically in significant amounts, they can lead to a variety of adverse effects. In contrast to liver toxicity, mood changes, osteoporosis, and adrenal insufficiency are known to occur with systemic exposure to glucocorticoids, even when they originate from topical applications in some cases, especially with high-potency formulations used over large surface areas or for extended periods. Mood changes can arise due to alterations in neurotransmitter levels or stress responses triggered by glucocorticoid effects. Osteoporosis is a concern because glucocorticoids can interfere with bone formation and calcium absorption. Adrenal insufficiency can develop when the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis is suppressed due to excessive glucocorticoid exposure. Liver toxicity, on the other hand, is not typically a concern with topical glucocorticoids. This effect is more commonly associated with certain oral medications, particularly

3. What is a potential side effect of using digoxin that patients should be made aware of?

- A. Increased appetite**
- B. Visual disturbances**
- C. Dry mouth**
- D. Joint pain**

Digoxin is a cardiac glycoside used primarily for the treatment of heart failure and atrial fibrillation. One important side effect that patients should be aware of is visual disturbances. These disturbances can manifest as changes in color perception, such as seeing a yellow or green tint, or experiencing blurred vision. This occurs because digoxin affects the visual processing pathways in the body, and it's essential for patients to recognize these symptoms, as they may indicate digoxin toxicity. Recognizing visual disturbances early can help in adjusting the medication dosage or switching to an alternative treatment, thus ensuring safer management of their condition. Monitoring for signs of digoxin toxicity is crucial, particularly in patients with decreased renal function or those taking other medications that could influence digoxin levels.

4. What should a nurse do if a client with end-stage renal disease is not achieving the desired outcome from sevelamer?

- A. Monitor the client's diet closely**
- B. Stop the medication immediately**
- C. Increase the sevelamer dosage**
- D. Switch to a different medication**

When managing a client with end-stage renal disease who is not achieving the desired effect from sevelamer, closely monitoring the client's diet is essential. Sevelamer is a phosphate binder that helps manage hyperphosphatemia by binding dietary phosphate in the gastrointestinal tract. If the client is not experiencing the expected outcomes, it could indicate dietary factors influencing phosphate levels. By monitoring the client's diet, the nurse can assess if the client is consuming high-phosphate foods that may not be adequately managed by sevelamer alone. This assessment can guide dietary modifications to better support the medication's effectiveness, ensuring the client adheres to a low-phosphate diet while taking sevelamer. Adjusting dietary intake can often improve the therapeutic outcomes alongside medication treatment, making this a logical first step in addressing the issue. It encourages a holistic approach to managing the client's condition, focusing not only on pharmacological interventions but also on lifestyle and dietary choices that can significantly impact treatment results.

5. What is the significant effect of cisplatin that the nurse should monitor for?

- A. Increased appetite**
- B. Bone marrow suppression**
- C. Severe migraines**
- D. Weight gain**

Cisplatin is a chemotherapy medication used primarily to treat various types of cancer. One of its significant side effects that nurses must closely monitor is bone marrow suppression. This occurs because cisplatin affects the rapidly dividing cells in the bone marrow, leading to a decrease in the production of blood cells, including red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. Monitoring for bone marrow suppression is crucial because this condition can lead to complications such as anemia (with resulting fatigue and weakness), increased risk of infections due to low white blood cell counts, and bleeding or bruising due to low platelet counts. These outcomes can significantly impact a patient's overall health and ability to tolerate further chemotherapy. The other options listed do not typically represent significant side effects associated with cisplatin treatment. While changes in appetite or potential weight gain can occur in cancer patients, these are less critical for monitoring compared to the severe effects of bone marrow suppression. Migraines are not a known side effect of cisplatin, further underscoring the need for vigilance around the hematological impact of this chemotherapeutic agent. Thus, focusing on bone marrow function and the associated blood parameters is essential for safe patient care during cisplatin therapy.

6. When caring for a patient on lithium, which medication should be avoided to prevent toxicity?

- A. Venlafaxine**
- B. Hydrochlorothiazide**
- C. Gabapentin**
- D. Losartan**

Lithium is a mood stabilizer frequently used in the treatment of bipolar disorder. It has a narrow therapeutic index, which means that the difference between a therapeutic dose and a toxic dose is small. This makes monitoring levels and potential interactions with other medications critical. Hydrochlorothiazide is a thiazide diuretic that can cause increased levels of lithium in the body. Thiazide diuretics decrease the renal clearance of lithium, leading to potential toxicity. This effect can occur due to dehydration, sodium depletion, or changes in fluid balance, which are common side effects seen with thiazide diuretics. Therefore, when a patient is taking lithium, healthcare providers often avoid or use caution when prescribing hydrochlorothiazide to prevent an increase in lithium levels that could lead to toxicity. Other options, such as venlafaxine, gabapentin, and losartan, do not have the same direct interaction with lithium, and their use does not notably affect lithium levels in the body. Thus, while they may be suitable for certain conditions, they do not pose the same risk of lithium toxicity as hydrochlorothiazide does.

7. Which patient statement indicates a misunderstanding in the administration of insulin glargine?

- A. "I will take this insulin right before my meals."**
- B. "I should roll this vial of insulin before removing it with the syringe."**
- C. "This insulin will help control my glucose for 24 hours."**
- D. "I can only inject this insulin into my abdomen."**

The statement indicating a misunderstanding in the administration of insulin glargine is that the patient plans to take this insulin right before meals. Insulin glargine is a long-acting insulin that provides a steady level of insulin with no pronounced peak, which is typically administered once a day at the same time, irrespective of meals. Its purpose is to provide a baseline level of insulin to control blood glucose levels throughout the day and night. Taking insulin glargine right before meals is not appropriate, as this type of insulin is not designed to cover the immediate glucose rise from food intake. Instead, patients requiring coverage for meals would usually be prescribed a rapid-acting insulin, which acts quickly to manage postprandial (after meal) blood glucose spikes. Therefore, the misunderstanding lies in the timing and purpose of the administration of this long-acting insulin. In contrast, other statements reflect accurate information regarding insulin glargine administration or handling. For example, it is common to gently roll vials of insulin to mix them, although this is more relevant for certain types of insulin rather than glargine, which is typically not mixed due to its formulation. The statement about the duration of glucose control for 24 hours aligns with the pharmacokinetics

8. While educating a patient on warfarin use, which foods should the LPN advise the patient to avoid?

- A. Peanut butter**
- B. Spinach**
- C. Almonds**
- D. Rice**

Warfarin is an anticoagulant that works by inhibiting the synthesis of vitamin K-dependent clotting factors in the liver, which means that foods high in vitamin K can affect its effectiveness. Spinach is particularly rich in vitamin K, which can counteract the anticoagulation effects of warfarin, potentially leading to an increased risk of clot formation. Therefore, patients on warfarin are often advised to maintain a consistent intake of foods high in vitamin K to avoid fluctuations in the drug's effectiveness. In contrast, peanut butter, almonds, and rice are not significant sources of vitamin K, and thus do not pose the same risks regarding warfarin's effectiveness. Maintaining a consistent diet with respect to vitamin K intake is essential for patients on warfarin to ensure stable INR levels and safe anticoagulation management.

9. What key information should be included when teaching a client about epoetin alfa?

- A. This medication will decrease your risk for infection.**
- B. You may notice black tarry stools while on this medication.**
- C. This medication may raise your blood pressure.**
- D. Take this medication with food rich in Vitamin C.**

When teaching a client about epoetin alfa, it is crucial to highlight that this medication may raise blood pressure. Epoetin alfa is a synthetic form of erythropoietin, a hormone important for red blood cell production. As the medication stimulates red blood cell production, it can also lead to an increase in blood volume, potentially causing elevated blood pressure. Monitoring blood pressure is essential for clients receiving this medication, especially those with a history of hypertension or cardiovascular issues. In contrast, the other options do not accurately represent key information regarding epoetin alfa therapy. For instance, while infection risk is a consideration for many medications affecting bone marrow, epoetin alfa does not directly lower infection risk. Black tarry stools could be indicative of gastrointestinal bleeding, a concern with other medications or conditions but not specifically with epoetin alfa. Lastly, while taking medications with food can aid absorption, epoetin alfa does not have specific food interactions requiring it to be taken with vitamin C-rich foods. Therefore, focusing on blood pressure management provides the most pertinent and practical information for the client.

10. When administering polyethylene glycol for constipation, which statements are correct?

- A. Mix the powder with any beverage that the patient enjoys.**
- B. Administer at the same time every day.**
- C. Administer with meals.**
- D. Dilute the powder with 8 oz of water.**

The statement about mixing the powder with any beverage that the patient enjoys is correct because polyethylene glycol (commonly known as PEG) is designed to be a palatable solution that can be mixed with various liquids to improve patient compliance. Since PEG is tasteless and odorless, it can be combined with most beverages that the patient prefers, making the medication more acceptable and helping ensure the patient consumes it as prescribed. Considering the context of the other options, it is important to note that while administering the medication consistently is important for its effectiveness, it is not specifically required to be given at the same time every day. Similarly, PEG does not need to be administered with meals; it can be taken independently of food. The dilution instructions are important, but PEG is typically advised to be mixed with a larger amount of fluid (often 8 oz or more), which can help ensure proper solubility and absorption. Thus, while mixing with preferred beverages is correct, the other considerations differ in requirements for timing and food.

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://nclexarcherpharmacology.examzify.com>

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

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