

NCLEX Archer Pharmacology 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. Which symptom indicates that dutasteride has achieved its therapeutic effect?**
 - A. Pyrosis
 - B. Hypothyroidism
 - C. Urinary retention
 - D. Anxiety

- 2. Which medication is contraindicated due to its interaction with carbamazepine?**
 - A. Amiodarone
 - B. Grapefruit juice
 - C. Vancomycin
 - D. Digoxin

- 3. What is the first-line medication prescribed for a client preparing for a colonoscopy?**
 - A. Docusate
 - B. Loperamide
 - C. Polyethylene glycol 3350
 - D. Famotidine

- 4. How should the nurse instruct a patient using a fentanyl transdermal patch to apply it?**
 - A. On the forearm, avoiding hairy areas.
 - B. On the abdomen, allowing for movement.
 - C. On the thigh, after shaving the area.
 - D. On the back, covering it with tape.

- 5. Which potential side effect should a patient taking lisinopril be aware of regarding taste perception?**
 - A. "Change in sensation of taste."
 - B. "No change in food preferences."
 - C. "Increased appetite."
 - D. "Altered sense of smell."

- 6. Which food should a patient taking a calcium channel blocker avoid?**
- A. Eggs
 - B. Milk
 - C. Grapefruit
 - D. Bananas
- 7. Which medication is indicated for a client experiencing an acute seizure?**
- A. Topiramate
 - B. Risperidone
 - C. Lorazepam
 - D. Baclofen
- 8. What antiviral medication may be prescribed for a client with influenza?**
- A. Valacyclovir
 - B. Oseltamivir
 - C. Azithromycin
 - D. Ribavirin
- 9. Why would a patient receiving IV heparin also be started on warfarin?**
- A. Additional medication is needed.
 - B. Warfarin is more effective than heparin.
 - C. Warfarin is not effective until 12-24 hours after the first dose.
 - D. Heparin has a low molecular weight and is only effective for a short time.
- 10. What medication is likely to be prescribed for a pregnant client with a pulmonary embolism upon discharge?**
- A. Warfarin
 - B. Rivaroxaban
 - C. Apixaban
 - D. Low Molecular Weight Heparin (LMWH)

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which symptom indicates that dutasteride has achieved its therapeutic effect?

- A. Pyrosis
- B. Hypothyroidism
- C. Urinary retention**
- D. Anxiety

Dutasteride is a medication primarily used to treat benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), which often manifests as urinary symptoms due to the enlargement of the prostate gland. The therapeutic effect of dutasteride is indicated by alleviation of these urinary symptoms. When dutasteride effectively reduces the size of the prostate or inhibits its growth, patients typically experience improvements in urinary flow and a reduction in urinary retention. In the context of this question, urinary retention is synonymous with difficulty in starting urination or a feeling of incomplete bladder emptying. Therefore, if a patient is experiencing less urinary retention or improved urinary function after starting dutasteride, it suggests that the medication is working as intended, thereby confirming its therapeutic effect. The other symptoms mentioned, such as pyrosis (heartburn), hypothyroidism, and anxiety, are not directly related to the efficacy of dutasteride in managing prostate-related urinary symptoms. These symptoms do not reflect the desired outcomes for a patient taking dutasteride for BPH.

2. Which medication is contraindicated due to its interaction with carbamazepine?

- A. Amiodarone
- B. Grapefruit juice**
- C. Vancomycin
- D. Digoxin

Grapefruit juice is contraindicated with carbamazepine because it can significantly affect the metabolism of the medication in the liver. Carbamazepine is metabolized by the cytochrome P450 system, specifically CYP3A4. Grapefruit juice inhibits this enzyme, leading to increased levels of carbamazepine in the bloodstream. This can heighten the risk of side effects and toxicity, making it crucial for patients taking carbamazepine to avoid grapefruit juice to maintain safe and effective drug levels. In contrast, amiodarone, vancomycin, and digoxin do not have significant interactions with carbamazepine that would warrant a contraindication. While these medications can have their own interactions and considerations, grapefruit juice's direct and pronounced effect on carbamazepine metabolism is a specific concern that necessitates avoiding its consumption for individuals on carbamazepine therapy.

3. What is the first-line medication prescribed for a client preparing for a colonoscopy?

- A. Docusate
- B. Loperamide
- C. Polyethylene glycol 3350**
- D. Famotidine

Polyethylene glycol 3350 is the first-line medication prescribed for a client preparing for a colonoscopy due to its efficacy as a bowel-cleansing agent. This osmotic laxative works by drawing water into the intestines, which helps to soften the stool and increases the frequency of bowel movements. The goal of using polyethylene glycol in this context is to ensure that the bowel is completely clear of any stool, allowing for a thorough examination during the colonoscopy. Other medications, such as docusate (a stool softener), loperamide (an anti-diarrheal), and famotidine (an acid reducer), do not serve the primary purpose of bowel preparation. Docusate is often used to prevent constipation rather than to prepare the bowel for a procedure. Loperamide is used to control diarrhea and would counteract the objective of clearing the bowels. Famotidine is used to reduce gastric acid and is not indicated for bowel preparation. Therefore, polyethylene glycol 3350 is the appropriate choice for ensuring optimal conditions for the colonoscopy procedure.

4. How should the nurse instruct a patient using a fentanyl transdermal patch to apply it?

- A. On the forearm, avoiding hairy areas.**
- B. On the abdomen, allowing for movement.
- C. On the thigh, after shaving the area.
- D. On the back, covering it with tape.

The patient should apply the fentanyl transdermal patch on a clean, dry, and hairless area of the skin. Applying it on the forearm is suitable because it's a common site with less movement, which helps enhance the absorption of the medication. Additionally, avoiding hairy areas ensures the patch adheres properly and the medication can be delivered effectively without obstruction from hair. Choosing an appropriate site for the patch is crucial for consistent drug absorption and minimizing discomfort. Sites on the body, like the abdomen, thigh, or back, can also be used, but the parameters for those locations need careful consideration regarding hair and movement. Ensuring the area is clear of hair allows the adhesive to stick better and the medication to penetrate the skin effectively, making the description of applying the patch on the forearm the most advisable choice.

5. Which potential side effect should a patient taking lisinopril be aware of regarding taste perception?

- A. "Change in sensation of taste."**
- B. "No change in food preferences."
- C. "Increased appetite."
- D. "Altered sense of smell."

Patients taking lisinopril, which is an ACE inhibitor used primarily for managing hypertension and heart failure, should be aware of the potential for a change in sensation of taste. This side effect is associated with the medication's mechanism and effects on the body, particularly involving certain processes that can affect taste buds and oral mucosa. A change in taste perception can manifest as a metallic or altered taste, which may affect the way foods are perceived and enjoyed. This side effect can occur in some patients without necessarily leading to other systemic issues, and it is important for patients to recognize that while it may be temporary, it can be distressing or affect their dietary habits. Understanding this potential side effect helps patients manage their expectations and communicate any concerns with their healthcare providers promptly.

6. Which food should a patient taking a calcium channel blocker avoid?

- A. Eggs
- B. Milk
- C. Grapefruit**
- D. Bananas

Patients taking calcium channel blockers should avoid grapefruit because it can interact with the metabolism of the medication in the liver. Grapefruit contains compounds that inhibit a specific enzyme (CYP3A4) responsible for breaking down many calcium channel blockers. When this enzyme is inhibited, it can lead to increased blood levels of the medication, potentially resulting in enhanced effects or adverse reactions, such as hypotension or bradycardia. In the context of the other food options, eggs, milk, and bananas do not have known interactions with calcium channel blockers. Therefore, including these foods in the diet would not interfere with the medication's effectiveness or safety profile. This highlights the importance of dietary choices in managing medication therapy safely, particularly when it comes to foods like grapefruit that can alter drug metabolism.

7. Which medication is indicated for a client experiencing an acute seizure?

- A. Topiramate
- B. Risperidone
- C. Lorazepam**
- D. Baclofen

Lorazepam is indicated for a client experiencing an acute seizure because it is a benzodiazepine that has rapid onset action and is effective in controlling seizure activity. Benzodiazepines work by enhancing the action of gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA), a neurotransmitter that inhibits neuronal firing in the brain. This quick action makes lorazepam particularly useful for managing seizures in emergency situations, such as status epilepticus, where timely intervention is crucial to prevent further brain injury and stabilize the patient. Other medications listed, while they have their own uses, are not appropriate for the immediate management of seizures. Topiramate is typically used for long-term management of seizure disorders and is not suited for acute situations. Risperidone is an antipsychotic medication that may be used for managing psychiatric conditions but does not pertain to seizure control. Baclofen is a muscle relaxant used for spasticity and does not have any anticonvulsant properties. Therefore, lorazepam is the most appropriate choice for acute seizure intervention.

8. What antiviral medication may be prescribed for a client with influenza?

- A. Valacyclovir
- B. Oseltamivir**
- C. Azithromycin
- D. Ribavirin

Oseltamivir is an antiviral medication specifically indicated for the treatment of influenza. It belongs to a class called neuraminidase inhibitors, which work by blocking the function of the viral neuraminidase enzyme. This action inhibits the release of new viral particles from infected cells, thereby reducing the duration of symptoms and potentially preventing further viral spread within the body. This medication is most effective when administered within the first 48 hours of the onset of symptoms, highlighting its role in managing influenza effectively. It is often utilized for both treatment and prevention of the flu, especially in high-risk populations. Other antiviral medications listed, such as valacyclovir and ribavirin, are used for different viral infections and do not have efficacy against influenza. Valacyclovir is primarily used for herpes virus infections, while ribavirin is typically reserved for treating hepatitis C and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Azithromycin is an antibiotic and would not be effective in treating a viral infection like influenza. Thus, oseltamivir stands out as the appropriate choice for managing influenza.

9. Why would a patient receiving IV heparin also be started on warfarin?

- A. Additional medication is needed.
- B. Warfarin is more effective than heparin.
- C. Warfarin is not effective until 12-24 hours after the first dose.**
- D. Heparin has a low molecular weight and is only effective for a short time.

The correct choice highlights that warfarin, an oral anticoagulant, does not achieve its therapeutic effect immediately. It typically takes 12 to 24 hours for warfarin to start working, and its full anticoagulant effect may take several days. This delayed onset is significant for patients transitioning from heparin to warfarin because heparin provides immediate anticoagulation due to its rapid onset of action. Initiating warfarin therapy while a patient is on heparin ensures that the patient is adequately anticoagulated during the period when warfarin is becoming effective, thereby preventing the risk of thromboembolism. The transition is often part of a broader strategy to provide continuous anticoagulation while moving from parenteral (heparin) to oral (warfarin) therapy. In this context, the other options do not appropriately convey the rationale for the initiation of both medications. Additional medication may not necessarily be required if warfarin were effective immediately. While heparin may have its limitations, it does not follow that warfarin is simply 'more effective' as both medications serve different purposes and mechanisms. The characterization of heparin as having low molecular weight alone does not explain the reason for

10. What medication is likely to be prescribed for a pregnant client with a pulmonary embolism upon discharge?

- A. Warfarin
- B. Rivaroxaban
- C. Apixaban
- D. Low Molecular Weight Heparin (LMWH)**

Low Molecular Weight Heparin (LMWH) is typically the medication of choice for a pregnant client diagnosed with a pulmonary embolism upon discharge. During pregnancy, anticoagulant therapy is crucial to prevent complications while ensuring the safety of both the mother and the fetus. LMWH is preferred because it has a more favorable safety profile compared to other anticoagulants, as it does not cross the placenta to a significant extent, thus minimizing the risk of fetal bleeding or other complications. LMWH is also convenient for outpatient treatment, as it can be administered via subcutaneous injection and does not require frequent monitoring of coagulation parameters, unlike unfractionated heparin. This aspect makes it especially suitable for managing conditions like pulmonary embolism in pregnant individuals, who may need anticoagulation therapy for an extended period. In contrast, the other medications listed—Warfarin, Rivaroxaban, and Apixaban—are contraindicated during pregnancy. Warfarin is known to cross the placenta and can adversely affect fetal development, particularly during the first trimester. Rivaroxaban and Apixaban, both direct oral anticoagulants, have limited data on their safety and efficacy during pregnancy, and their use is generally not recommended due to potential risks to

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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