

NEW SOUTH WALES AMBULANCE PHARMACOLOGY PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED 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. 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 of the following is a potential adverse effect of lignocaine?**
 - A. Severe allergic reactions
 - B. Ventricular dysrhythmias
 - C. Increased respiratory rate
 - D. Excessive salivation

- 2. What is the primary action of Benzylpenicillin?**
 - A. Inhibits bacterial protein synthesis
 - B. Bacteriocidal by inhibiting bacterial cell wall synthesis
 - C. Inactivates viral DNA
 - D. Prevents fungal cell membrane formation

- 3. What is one common adverse effect of amiodarone?**
 - A. Tachycardia
 - B. Hypertension
 - C. Bradycardia
 - D. Anaphylaxis

- 4. Which condition is NOT indicated for the use of Compound Sodium Lactate?**
 - A. Hyperglycaemia
 - B. Meningococcal Disease
 - C. Diving Emergencies
 - D. Dehydration

- 5. What severe allergic reaction can occur from Benzylpenicillin?**
 - A. Angio-oedema
 - B. Respiratory infection
 - C. Dehydration
 - D. Bleeding disorder

- 6. For lignocaine, which condition is a contraindication for its use?**
 - A. Hypotension
 - B. Allergy or hypersensitivity to lignocaine
 - C. Severe dehydration
 - D. Sepsis

- 7. What is an uncommon adverse effect of ibuprofen?**
- A. Skin rash
 - B. Hypersensitivity reactions
 - C. Acid reflux
 - D. Frequent urination
- 8. What potential effect does BETA 1 receptor stimulation from adrenaline have on the heart?**
- A. Increases peripheral resistance
 - B. Decreases cardiac output
 - C. Increases myocardial excitability
 - D. Induces bradycardia
- 9. What is one of the rare adverse effects of oxytocin?**
- A. Headache
 - B. Tachycardia
 - C. Anaphylactoid reaction with shock
 - D. Nausea
- 10. What could happen if Glucose 10% extravasates from the vein?**
- A. Improved glucose levels
 - B. Tissue necrosis
 - C. Weight gain
 - D. Headaches

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following is a potential adverse effect of lignocaine?

- A. Severe allergic reactions
- B. Ventricular dysrhythmias**
- C. Increased respiratory rate
- D. Excessive salivation

Ventricular dysrhythmias are indeed a potential adverse effect of lignocaine, commonly known as lidocaine, which is frequently used as a local anesthetic and antiarrhythmic agent. Lignocaine affects cardiac tissue by blocking sodium channels, which can impact the conduction of electrical impulses in the heart. If used in excessive doses or in patients with pre-existing heart conditions, lignocaine can lead to disruptions in the heart's rhythm, resulting in various types of ventricular dysrhythmias. This highlights the importance of careful dosing and monitoring when administering lignocaine, particularly in individuals with a higher risk of cardiac issues. In contrast, while severe allergic reactions can occur with any medication, they are not a frequently reported adverse effect specific to lignocaine. Increased respiratory rate is not typically associated with lignocaine and is more indicative of other types of medication or underlying conditions. Excessive salivation is also not a common side effect of lignocaine; rather, it may occur due to other drug classes, particularly those affecting the autonomic nervous system. Understanding these specifics is crucial for safe and effective use of lignocaine in practice.

2. What is the primary action of Benzylpenicillin?

- A. Inhibits bacterial protein synthesis
- B. Bactericidal by inhibiting bacterial cell wall synthesis**
- C. Inactivates viral DNA
- D. Prevents fungal cell membrane formation

Benzylpenicillin, also known as penicillin G, primarily acts as a bactericidal agent by inhibiting bacterial cell wall synthesis. This action is crucial in combating bacterial infections, as it disrupts the integrity of the cell wall, leading to cell lysis and death. The mechanism involves binding to penicillin-binding proteins (PBPs), which are essential for the synthesis of peptidoglycan, a key component of bacterial cell walls. When PBPs are inhibited, the bacteria are unable to properly maintain their cell structure, ultimately resulting in their breakdown. This is particularly effective against Gram-positive bacteria, which have a thick peptidoglycan layer in their cell wall. Other choices reflect actions that are not characteristic of Benzylpenicillin. For example, inhibiting bacterial protein synthesis relates to antibiotic classes like macrolides or tetracyclines, while inactivating viral DNA pertains to antiviral medications, and preventing fungal cell membrane formation is associated with antifungal agents like azoles or polyenes. Therefore, the correct choice highlights Benzylpenicillin's specific mechanism of action in pharmacology.

3. What is one common adverse effect of amiodarone?

- A. Tachycardia
- B. Hypertension
- C. Bradycardia**
- D. Anaphylaxis

Amiodarone is an antiarrhythmic medication primarily used to treat various types of serious arrhythmias. One of its common adverse effects is bradycardia, which refers to a slower-than-normal heart rate. This occurs because amiodarone affects the electrical conduction system of the heart, particularly by prolonging the conduction time and increasing the refractory period. This can lead to the heart beating more slowly than intended, which is clinically significant particularly in patients with existing conduction abnormalities or those who are taking other medications that also slow heart rate. Bradycardia can manifest as symptoms including dizziness, fatigue, or syncope, making it important for healthcare providers to monitor heart rates closely when a patient is on amiodarone. The understanding of this side effect is crucial for safe and effective administration of the drug, highlighting the need for careful patient assessment and monitoring during therapy.

4. Which condition is NOT indicated for the use of Compound Sodium Lactate?

- A. Hyperglycaemia
- B. Meningococcal Disease**
- C. Diving Emergencies
- D. Dehydration

Compound Sodium Lactate, commonly known as Hartmann's solution, is a type of intravenous fluid that is typically used for fluid resuscitation and electrolyte replenishment. It contains sodium, chloride, lactate, and other electrolytes, making it effective in treating conditions that require volume replacement or electrolyte balance. When considering the use of Compound Sodium Lactate, dehydration is a clear indication as it helps restore fluid balance and electrolyte levels in patients who are dehydrated. Similarly, in diving emergencies, there may be a need for volume replacement due to various physiological changes that can occur under pressure or after surfacing, making this solution appropriate. In cases of hyperglycaemia, while it may not directly treat elevated blood glucose levels, the administration of fluids and electrolytes can be beneficial in preventing dehydration that might accompany hyperglycaemia, particularly in situations such as diabetic ketoacidosis. Meningococcal disease, however, is a serious bacterial infection that often necessitates specific antibiotic treatment and sometimes rapid resuscitation of fluids. Although supportive treatment might involve fluid resuscitation, the primary concern focuses on the urgent management of the infection and preventing complications from septic shock, where other resuscitative measures might be more appropriate rather than the routine use of

5. What severe allergic reaction can occur from Benzylpenicillin?

- A. Angio-oedema**
- B. Respiratory infection
- C. Dehydration
- D. Bleeding disorder

Benzylpenicillin, a type of penicillin antibiotic, can trigger a severe allergic reaction known as angio-oedema. This reaction is characterized by swelling of the deeper layers of the skin, often around the eyes and lips, and sometimes in the throat, which can lead to serious complications such as airway obstruction. This allergic response is due to the body's immune system mistakenly identifying the medication as a harmful substance, prompting the release of histamines and other chemicals that cause these symptoms. The other options do not represent typical severe allergic reactions associated with Benzylpenicillin. Respiratory infections are unrelated as they are not a direct reaction to the drug but rather a potential condition for which antibiotics may be prescribed. Dehydration does not directly result from an allergic response, and while it may occur in various illnesses or situations, it is not a specific reaction linked to Benzylpenicillin. A bleeding disorder is also not associated with allergic reactions to this medication; it generally involves other underlying conditions or medications that affect coagulation. Thus, angio-oedema is the correct and specific response to consider when discussing severe allergic reactions related to Benzylpenicillin use.

6. For lignocaine, which condition is a contraindication for its use?

- A. Hypotension
- B. Allergy or hypersensitivity to lignocaine**
- C. Severe dehydration
- D. Sepsis

Allergy or hypersensitivity to lignocaine is a contraindication for its use because if a patient has a known allergy to this medication, administering it could provoke a severe allergic reaction. Hypersensitivity can lead to adverse effects that may range from localized reactions, such as rash or itching, to life-threatening systemic reactions, such as anaphylaxis. It's critical to avoid administering medications that the patient is allergic to in order to prevent such dangerous responses. In contrast, the other conditions listed may require caution or dose adjustment but do not universally contraindicate the use of lignocaine. For instance, hypotension may be managed during treatment without necessarily ruling out lignocaine, while severe dehydration and sepsis can sometimes increase the risk of complications but do not outright prevent its use. Nonetheless, a thorough assessment of each patient should be conducted, considering all factors involved in their specific situation.

7. What is an uncommon adverse effect of ibuprofen?

- A. Skin rash
- B. Hypersensitivity reactions**
- C. Acid reflux
- D. Frequent urination

Hypersensitivity reactions are considered an uncommon adverse effect of ibuprofen. While non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like ibuprofen are widely used for their analgesic and anti-inflammatory properties, hypersensitivity reactions can occur, though they are not as frequently reported as other side effects. Such reactions might manifest as symptoms like anaphylaxis, urticaria (hives), or angioedema. On the other hand, skin rash, acid reflux, and frequent urination are more commonly observed effects associated with ibuprofen. Skin rash can occur due to the drug triggering sensitivities in some patients, while acid reflux may result from ibuprofen's ability to irritate the gastrointestinal tract. Frequent urination may not be a direct adverse effect of ibuprofen, but it can occur due to fluid retention or kidney effects in certain individuals. Thus, hypersensitivity reactions stand out as the less common adverse effect among the options provided.

8. What potential effect does BETA 1 receptor stimulation from adrenaline have on the heart?

- A. Increases peripheral resistance
- B. Decreases cardiac output
- C. Increases myocardial excitability**
- D. Induces bradycardia

Stimulation of BETA 1 receptors by adrenaline has a significant impact on the heart, primarily by increasing myocardial excitability. When BETA 1 receptors, which are primarily located in the heart, are activated, they lead to an increase in heart rate (positive chronotropy) and enhanced contractility (positive inotropy). This means that the heart not only beats faster but also with more force. As a result, the heart is able to pump more blood with each contraction, leading to an overall increase in cardiac output. The increase in myocardial excitability specifically refers to the heart muscle's responsiveness to stimuli, making it more likely to fire action potentials and contract. This physiological response is crucial during situations where the body requires increased oxygen delivery to tissues, such as during physical exertion or stress. The other potential effects listed do not accurately reflect the influence of BETA 1 receptor stimulation. For instance, an increase in peripheral resistance would typically occur with alpha receptor stimulation, not BETA 1. Likewise, decreased cardiac output and induced bradycardia would contradict the effects of BETA 1 stimulation. Therefore, an understanding of BETA 1 receptor actions in relation to adrenaline reveals why increasing myocardial excitability is the appropriate and correct

9. What is one of the rare adverse effects of oxytocin?

- A. Headache
- B. Tachycardia
- C. Anaphylactoid reaction with shock**
- D. Nausea

One of the rare adverse effects of oxytocin is the possibility of an anaphylactoid reaction with shock. Oxytocin is a peptide hormone commonly used in various medical situations, particularly in labor induction and postpartum hemorrhage management. While more common side effects include headache, nausea, and even tachycardia as the body responds to the medication, an anaphylactoid reaction is exceptionally rare and occurs when the immune system reacts unexpectedly to a medication as if it were an allergen. Anaphylactoid reactions can lead to a rapid onset of symptoms such as difficulty breathing, swelling, and potentially shock, which makes this side effect particularly serious and noteworthy. The rarity of such reactions highlights the importance of careful monitoring of patients receiving oxytocin, even though the overall profile of the drug indicates a higher frequency of more common reactions. This understanding underscores the importance of recognizing and preparing for potential severe allergic responses in clinical practice.

10. What could happen if Glucose 10% extravasates from the vein?

A. Improved glucose levels

B. Tissue necrosis

C. Weight gain

D. Headaches

If glucose 10% extravasates from the vein, tissue necrosis could occur due to the hypertonic nature of the solution. When a hypertonic solution such as glucose 10% leaks into the surrounding tissue, it can cause osmotic damage. The high concentration of glucose draws water out of the surrounding cells, leading to cellular dehydration and subsequent necrosis. This can present as inflammation and damage to local tissues, which may result in complications such as ulcer formation or even more severe tissue loss if not managed appropriately. Other possibilities, like improved glucose levels, weight gain, or headaches, are not relevant in the context of extravasation. The immediate concern is the risk of local tissue damage due to the hypertonic solution rather than systemic effects.

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://nswambpharmacology.examzify.com>

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

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