

# NHA Examination for Certification of Pharmacy Technicians (ExCPT) 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. What is the main purpose of medication therapy management (MTM)?**
  - A. To reduce medication costs**
  - B. To optimize therapeutic outcomes for patients by ensuring safe and effective medication use**
  - C. To provide patient education on nutrition**
  - D. To increase the sales of medications**
  
- 2. What agency regulates the approval and safety of new drugs in the U.S.?**
  - A. The Department of Health and Human Services**
  - B. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**
  - C. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**
  - D. The National Institutes of Health (NIH)**
  
- 3. How do you convert 18 pounds to kilograms?**
  - A. Multiply by 2.2**
  - B. Add 2.2**
  - C. Divide by 2.2**
  - D. Subtract 2.2**
  
- 4. What does DAW 7 indicate regarding the substitution of a medication?**
  - A. Substitution allowed with a generic drug**
  - B. Brand drug mandated by law, substitution not allowed**
  - C. Substitution allowed if the generic is not preferred**
  - D. Substitution only if patient requests it**
  
- 5. What is the main role of the FDA?**
  - A. To regulate the sale of over-the-counter products only**
  - B. To supervise the development and safety of medications**
  - C. To approve pricing for pharmaceuticals**
  - D. To monitor environmental hazards**

- 6. What is the purpose of tall man letters in pharmacy?**
- A. To enhance drug storage**
  - B. To label controlled substances**
  - C. To prevent sound-alike and look-alike drug mix-ups**
  - D. To indicate dosage forms**
- 7. What recordkeeping requirement is mandated by OBRA 90?**
- A. Pharmacists to maintain records for controlled substances only.**
  - B. Pharmacists to keep medication records for all Medicaid recipients.**
  - C. Pharmacists to document only new patients.**
  - D. Pharmacists to only record prescriptions dispensed in the last month.**
- 8. Which route of administration is characterized by clear solutions containing water, alcohol, and flavoring?**
- A. Oral**
  - B. Intravenous**
  - C. Elixirs**
  - D. Syrups**
- 9. For which type of medications are refills not allowed?**
- A. Schedule IV.**
  - B. Schedule III.**
  - C. Schedule II.**
  - D. Schedule V.**
- 10. What is the primary goal of the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)?**
- A. To enhance medication compliance**
  - B. To prevent prescription drug abuse**
  - C. To improve patient access to medications**
  - D. To reduce healthcare costs**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What is the main purpose of medication therapy management (MTM)?**

- A. To reduce medication costs**
- B. To optimize therapeutic outcomes for patients by ensuring safe and effective medication use**
- C. To provide patient education on nutrition**
- D. To increase the sales of medications**

The main purpose of medication therapy management (MTM) is to optimize therapeutic outcomes for patients by ensuring safe and effective medication use. MTM involves a collaborative approach to patient care, where pharmacists work closely with patients and healthcare providers to review medications, identify potential drug interactions, and assess the appropriateness of therapy. Through MTM, pharmacists can help patients manage their medications better, address adherence issues, and ensure that medications are being used effectively to achieve desired health outcomes. This comprehensive review is aimed at minimizing adverse effects and maximizing the benefits of the medications prescribed. While reducing medication costs and providing patient education on nutrition may be outcomes associated with MTM practices, the primary focus remains on enhancing the overall health and well-being of the patient by ensuring that their medication regimen is optimized. Increasing the sales of medications does not align with the objectives of MTM, which are centered around patient care rather than profit-driven motives.

**2. What agency regulates the approval and safety of new drugs in the U.S.?**

- A. The Department of Health and Human Services**
- B. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**
- C. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**
- D. The National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is the agency responsible for regulating the approval and safety of new drugs in the United States. This agency's primary role includes ensuring that all pharmaceutical products meet specific safety, efficacy, and quality standards before they can be marketed to the public. The FDA conducts thorough evaluations of clinical trial data submitted by drug manufacturers, which provides insights into how the drug works, its potential side effects, and its overall safety profile. The importance of the FDA's role cannot be overstated, as it protects public health by ensuring that new drugs are rigorously tested and monitored. This includes both pre-market evaluations and ongoing post-market surveillance to track drug performance and emerging safety issues once a drug is on the market. In contrast, the Department of Health and Human Services oversees public health initiatives and research, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention focuses on disease prevention and control, and the National Institutes of Health primarily supports medical research. While these organizations play vital roles in health and medical research, they do not have the authority to approve and regulate drugs as the FDA does.

### 3. How do you convert 18 pounds to kilograms?

- A. Multiply by 2.2
- B. Add 2.2
- C. Divide by 2.2**
- D. Subtract 2.2

To convert pounds to kilograms, the appropriate mathematical operation involves dividing the weight in pounds by a conversion factor, which is approximately 2.2. This is because 1 kilogram is equivalent to about 2.2 pounds. Therefore, when you have a weight given in pounds, dividing by this conversion factor will yield the equivalent weight in kilograms. For example, if you take 18 pounds and divide it by 2.2, you would get approximately 8.18 kilograms. This method allows for an accurate translation of weight measurements from the imperial system to the metric system, which is crucial in pharmacy practice for dosages that may need to be calculated in different units.

### 4. What does DAW 7 indicate regarding the substitution of a medication?

- A. Substitution allowed with a generic drug
- B. Brand drug mandated by law, substitution not allowed**
- C. Substitution allowed if the generic is not preferred
- D. Substitution only if patient requests it

The indicator DAW 7 specifies that the brand drug is mandated by law, meaning that there are legal restrictions or regulations in place that prevent the substitution with a generic equivalent. This situation typically arises when a specific state law requires the brand-name medication to be dispensed instead of a generic counterpart, ensuring that patients receive the exact medication prescribed by their healthcare provider. This designation is essential for maintaining patient safety and ensuring that therapeutic outcomes are met as intended by the prescriber. Therefore, the DAW 7 code plays a crucial role in ensuring compliance with legal requirements regarding medication dispensing.

## 5. What is the main role of the FDA?

- A. To regulate the sale of over-the-counter products only
- B. To supervise the development and safety of medications**
- C. To approve pricing for pharmaceuticals
- D. To monitor environmental hazards

The main role of the FDA, or the Food and Drug Administration, is to supervise the development and safety of medications. This encompasses a range of responsibilities, including evaluating new drugs before they can be marketed to ensure that they are safe and effective for public use. The FDA sets standards for clinical trials and thoroughly reviews research data submitted by pharmaceutical companies. This crucial process helps protect consumers by ensuring that any medication approved for use meets specific safety and efficacy requirements. Additionally, the FDA continues to monitor these medications even after they are on the market, identifying any potential side effects and ensuring that manufacturers adhere to manufacturing standards. This ongoing oversight is critical to maintaining public health and safety. Other options provided do not encapsulate the FDA's primary focus. While the FDA does oversee the safety of a wide variety of products, including over-the-counter items, its mandate is much broader, covering prescription medications, vaccines, and medical devices among others. The agency does not approve pricing for pharmaceuticals; this task is typically left to the market and individual companies. Monitoring environmental hazards is also not a direct role of the FDA; other agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), typically handle such responsibilities. Therefore, the correct answer highlights the FDA's central function in ensuring medication safety.

## 6. What is the purpose of tall man letters in pharmacy?

- A. To enhance drug storage
- B. To label controlled substances
- C. To prevent sound-alike and look-alike drug mix-ups**
- D. To indicate dosage forms

Tall man letters are specifically designed to aid in the prevention of errors that occur due to sound-alike or look-alike medications. These medications can often be confused with one another when prescribed or dispensed, leading to potentially harmful mistakes. By using tall man lettering—highlighting part of the drug name in uppercase—pharmacy professionals can quickly identify distinct medications at a glance. For instance, the distinction between "prednisone" and "prednisolone" is made clearer, reducing the risk of mix-ups during the medication dispensing process. This practice serves as a visual cue that enhances safety in medication management and supports proper patient care. Using tall man letters is an important step in minimizing medication errors in a busy pharmacy setting.

**7. What recordkeeping requirement is mandated by OBRA 90?**

- A. Pharmacists to maintain records for controlled substances only.**
- B. Pharmacists to keep medication records for all Medicaid recipients.**
- C. Pharmacists to document only new patients.**
- D. Pharmacists to only record prescriptions dispensed in the last month.**

The requirement mandated by OBRA 90 specifies that pharmacists must maintain medication records for all Medicaid recipients. This legislation was enacted to ensure that pharmacists actively participate in the medication use process, enhancing patient safety and optimizing therapeutic outcomes. By keeping comprehensive records, pharmacists can monitor patients' medication regimens, identify potential drug interactions, and ensure appropriate medication therapy management. This requirement reflects a broader commitment to patient care by ensuring that all medications dispensed are tracked and that pharmacists have access to patients' medication history. This provision aims to improve healthcare quality and reduce adverse drug events, highlighting the essential role that pharmacists play in patient healthcare, especially within the Medicaid population. Other options do not align with OBRA 90's aims or requirements. For instance, limiting records to only controlled substances or focusing on new patients would not provide a comprehensive view of a patient's medication history. Similarly, recording prescriptions dispensed within a limited timeframe, such as the last month, does not fulfill the intent of continuous patient management that OBRA 90 promotes.

**8. Which route of administration is characterized by clear solutions containing water, alcohol, and flavoring?**

- A. Oral**
- B. Intravenous**
- C. Elixirs**
- D. Syrups**

The correct answer is elixirs. Elixirs are liquid preparations that typically consist of a mixture of water, alcohol, and flavoring agents. They are designed to dissolve certain medications and enhance their palatability, making them easier for patients to ingest. The presence of alcohol in elixirs can help dissolve medications that are not water-soluble, while the flavored components improve the overall taste, making them more acceptable, especially in pediatric or geriatric populations. In contrast, while oral administration refers broadly to any medication taken by mouth, it does not specify the formulation or characteristics of the solution. Syrups are sweet, viscous liquids that primarily contain sugar and water, sometimes with medicinal properties, but they don't typically include alcohol in their composition. Intravenous administration involves the direct delivery of medication into the bloodstream and does not involve any solution type that includes flavoring, as it is a sterile method of medication delivery. These distinctions make elixirs the clear choice when specifically identifying a preparation characterized by a combination of water, alcohol, and flavoring.

**9. For which type of medications are refills not allowed?**

- A. Schedule IV.
- B. Schedule III.
- C. Schedule II.**
- D. Schedule V.

Refills are not allowed for Schedule II medications due to their high potential for abuse and addiction. The classification of Schedule II drugs encompasses substances that have recognized medical uses but also carry a significant risk of physical or psychological dependence. Because of this risk, federal regulations strictly limit the dispensing of these medications. When a prescription is written for a Schedule II drug, it is required to be filled in its entirety. Patients cannot receive refills; instead, a new prescription must be issued each time the medication is needed. This regulation serves to monitor and control the use of these powerful medications. In contrast, other schedules such as Schedule III, IV, and V allow for refills under certain conditions, making them less strictly regulated than Schedule II drugs.

**10. What is the primary goal of the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)?**

- A. To enhance medication compliance
- B. To prevent prescription drug abuse**
- C. To improve patient access to medications
- D. To reduce healthcare costs

The primary goal of the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) is to prevent prescription drug abuse. PMPs are state-run programs that track the prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances within that state. They are designed to monitor patient medication usage and help identify potential cases of misuse or abuse. By collecting and analyzing data on prescriptions, PMPs assist healthcare providers in making informed decisions while also reducing the risk of patients obtaining medications for non-medical use or engaging in "doctor shopping" to acquire more prescriptions than medically necessary. Preventing prescription drug abuse not only aims to protect individual patients from the dangers associated with misuse but also seeks to address the public health crisis stemming from the opioid epidemic and other substance abuse disorders. Proper use of PMPs can lead to better clinical outcomes and promote safe prescribing practices among healthcare providers.

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://nhaexcpt.examzify.com>**

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

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