

NHCO Order of Draw 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 color tube top is associated with citrate anticoagulant for coagulation testing?**
 - A. Red**
 - B. Gold**
 - C. Lavender**
 - D. Light Blue**

- 2. Thrombus is defined as what?**
 - A. Bruising of tissue**
 - B. Systemic infection**
 - C. Inflammation of vein**
 - D. Blood clot due to insufficient pressure after needle**

- 3. When fainting is possible during blood collection, what should the technician prioritize?**
 - A. Complete the draw to avoid delays.**
 - B. Protect patient from injury if anything should occur.**
 - C. Administer medications to prevent fainting.**
 - D. Ask the patient to relax and continue without interruption.**

- 4. Which of the following best describes the safety principle in fainting risk during a procedure?**
 - A. Protect patient from injury if anything should occur.**
 - B. Immediately restart the procedure after a brief pause.**
 - C. Call the patient's family for consent.**
 - D. Finish the draw quickly to minimize exposure.**

- 5. Which statement about STS tubes is correct?**
 - A. Sodium polyanethdesy/fonate**
 - B. They are tan colored**
 - C. They stand for STS**
 - D. They are used for ABO typing**

- 6. What is the recommended action if a patient faints during phlebotomy?**
- A. Protect patient from injury if anything should occur.**
 - B. Call security to remove the patient from the treatment area.**
 - C. Request the patient to drink water and resume immediately.**
 - D. Continue the draw while the patient lies down.**
- 7. Which color identifies blood collection tubes that contain thrombin and have a splash guard cap?**
- A. Blue**
 - B. Orange**
 - C. Green**
 - D. Red**
- 8. Which statement describes the role of EDTA in preserving sample quality?**
- A. They preserve cell morphology and prevent clotting**
 - B. They preserve serum enzymes**
 - C. They promote clot formation for many tests**
 - D. They change cell color**
- 9. ACD stands for what?**
- A. Acid citrate dextrose**
 - B. Anticoagulant citrate dextrose**
 - C. Acid citrate dextrose solution**
 - D. Acetate citrate dextrose**
- 10. Which statement describes the mechanism by which citrate anticoagulation inhibits clot formation?**
- A. Citrate anticoagulation works by binding calcium ions to inhibit clot formation**
 - B. Citrate adds calcium to promote clotting**
 - C. Citrate has no effect on calcium**
 - D. Citrate only affects potassium**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which color tube top is associated with citrate anticoagulant for coagulation testing?

- A. Red**
- B. Gold**
- C. Lavender**
- D. Light Blue**

The main idea here is that tube color signals what additive is inside, and for coagulation testing you need an anticoagulant that preserves clotting factors. Light blue tops contain sodium citrate, which is specifically used as the anticoagulant for coagulation tests. Sodium citrate works by temporarily binding calcium, stopping the blood from clotting. This lets you measure clotting times like PT and aPTT on plasma rather than serum. The accuracy depends on the correct blood-to-anticoagulant ratio (about 9:1) and proper mixing. That's why these tubes must be filled to the indicated line and gently inverted several times to mix. Other tube colors serve different purposes: red tops are without anticoagulant (used for serum), gold tops contain a clot activator with a gel for serum, and lavender tops contain EDTA (used for complete blood counts) and are not suitable for routine coagulation studies because EDTA interferes with clotting factors.

2. Thrombus is defined as what?

- A. Bruising of tissue**
- B. Systemic infection**
- C. Inflammation of vein**
- D. Blood clot due to insufficient pressure after needle**

A thrombus is a blood clot that forms inside a blood vessel or the heart when the coagulation system activates and platelets and fibrin come together to seal a site of injury. It can stay attached to the vessel wall or grow and block blood flow, leading to problems like deep vein thrombosis or arterial occlusion. This is different from a bruise (hematoma), which is blood that pools outside vessels, a systemic infection, or inflammation of a vein. The idea of a clot forming after a needle because of insufficient pressure isn't what defines a thrombus; inadequate pressure after venipuncture is more likely to cause a hematoma or continued bleeding, whereas a thrombus refers to clot formation within the circulation itself.

3. When fainting is possible during blood collection, what should the technician prioritize?

- A. Complete the draw to avoid delays.**
- B. Protect patient from injury if anything should occur.**
- C. Administer medications to prevent fainting.**
- D. Ask the patient to relax and continue without interruption.**

When fainting is possible, the top priority is keeping the patient safe and preventing injury. If a risk of fainting arises, the phlebotomist should stop the draw and move the patient to a safe position—ideally lying flat (with legs supported if possible) and away from sharp objects—so a fall or injury doesn't occur. Stay with the patient, loosen tight clothing, and monitor until they're stable. Medications are not within a phlebotomist's role, and asking the patient to relax and continue ignores the risk of sudden loss of consciousness. Completing the draw despite a fainting risk is not appropriate because safety comes first.

4. Which of the following best describes the safety principle in fainting risk during a procedure?

A. Protect patient from injury if anything should occur.

B. Immediately restart the procedure after a brief pause.

C. Call the patient's family for consent.

D. Finish the draw quickly to minimize exposure.

When a fainting risk is present, the most important idea is to prioritize safety by protecting the patient from injury if anything should occur. In practice, that means stopping the procedure and ensuring the patient is in a safe position—ideally lying flat with legs elevated if possible, while keeping sharp objects and the equipment out of reach. Check for signs of presyncope or syncope such as dizziness, pallor, sweating, or nausea, and stay with the patient, offering reassurance and monitoring their breathing and consciousness. Only resume the procedure after the patient has recovered and is stable, and after you've ensured their comfort and safety. The focus is on preventing harm, not on finishing quickly or seeking unrelated approvals. Restarting immediately, involving the family for consent, or rushing the draw does not address the immediate safety needs and could lead to injury.

5. Which statement about STS tubes is correct?

A. Sodium polyanethdesy/fonate

B. They are tan colored

C. They stand for STS

D. They are used for ABO typing

STS tubes contain Sodium polyanetholesulfonate, the additive used to preserve circulating organisms for blood cultures. This compound acts as an anticoagulant and helps keep bacteria alive by binding calcium and inhibiting certain immune processes, which is why these tubes are chosen for culture work. They are not tan-colored; blood culture tubes with this additive are typically yellow-top. They are also not used for ABO typing, which relies on different tubes and reagents. So the statement naming the additive, Sodium polyanetholesulfonate, is the correct description of STS tubes.

6. What is the recommended action if a patient faints during phlebotomy?

A. Protect patient from injury if anything should occur.

B. Call security to remove the patient from the treatment area.

C. Request the patient to drink water and resume immediately.

D. Continue the draw while the patient lies down.

When a patient faints during phlebotomy, safety comes first. The appropriate move is to stop the procedure and protect the patient from injury by getting them to a safe position—ideally lying flat with legs elevated if possible—while you keep the area clear of hazards and monitor their breathing and responsiveness. Stay with them and seek medical help if they don't recover promptly. Giving water and trying to resume the draw right away isn't appropriate, and continuing the draw while they're fainted is unsafe. The priority action is to protect the patient from injury and ensure their safety.

7. Which color identifies blood collection tubes that contain thrombin and have a splash guard cap?

- A. Blue
- B. Orange**
- C. Green
- D. Red

Thrombin-based, rapid serum tubes are identified by an orange top. Thrombin acts as a clot activator to speed up clotting, so serum is available faster for STAT testing. Many orange-top tubes also feature a splash guard cap for safety. The other colors correspond to different additives (blue with citrate, green with heparin, red without thrombin), so they don't indicate thrombin-containing tubes. That's why orange is the correct choice.

8. Which statement describes the role of EDTA in preserving sample quality?

- A. They preserve cell morphology and prevent clotting**
- B. They preserve serum enzymes
- C. They promote clot formation for many tests
- D. They change cell color

EDTA acts as an anticoagulant by chelating calcium, which is essential for the blood clotting process. By removing calcium, coagulation is inhibited, so the blood remains un-clotted and the cells stay intact. This preservation of cell morphology is crucial for accurate hematology tests, such as white blood cell and platelet counts and peripheral smears. EDTA tubes are designed to yield plasma (not serum), and while they keep cells well-preserved, they're not used to preserve serum enzymes; some enzyme tests require serum or can be affected by calcium chelation. EDTA's role is not to promote clotting or to change cell color, but specifically to prevent clotting and maintain cell integrity for reliable cell-based analyses.

9. ACD stands for what?

- A. Acid citrate dextrose**
- B. Anticoagulant citrate dextrose
- C. Acid citrate dextrose solution
- D. Acetate citrate dextrose

ACD stands for Acid Citrate Dextrose. This name reflects how the anticoagulant works: the Acid lowers the pH, Citrate binds calcium to prevent clotting, and Dextrose provides an energy source to help preserve blood cells during storage. In practice, this solution is used in blood collection and storage, especially in blood banking. The other options mix in terms like "anticoagulant" or replace words, or add "solution," which isn't part of the official acronym.

10. Which statement describes the mechanism by which citrate anticoagulation inhibits clot formation?

- A. Citrate anticoagulation works by binding calcium ions to inhibit clot formation**
- B. Citrate adds calcium to promote clotting**
- C. Citrate has no effect on calcium**
- D. Citrate only affects potassium**

Citrate works by binding calcium ions, which are essential cofactors for the coagulation cascade. Without free calcium, the steps that convert prothrombin to thrombin and accumulate other activated factors cannot proceed, so clot formation is halted. This binding is reversible, so when citrate is removed or calcium is added back, coagulation can resume. Citrate does not add calcium, does affect calcium (not potassium), and its primary action is on calcium, not potassium.

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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://nhcoorderofdraw.examzify.com>

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

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