

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 statement best reflects the safety priority when fainting risk arises during venipuncture?**
 - A. Continue the procedure while monitoring the patient.**
 - B. Place the patient in a comfortable position and resume when ready.**
 - C. Protect patient from injury if anything should occur.**
 - D. Ignore fainting signs and complete the draw.**

- 2. Which color would you expect for the 2nd draw?**
 - A. Light Blue**
 - B. Lavender or pink**
 - C. Royal Blue**
 - D. Gold**

- 3. Royal Blue tubes correspond to which draw?**
 - A. 6th draw**
 - B. 7th draw**
 - C. 8th draw**
 - D. 9th draw**

- 4. Which color top is used for toxicology testing with EDTA (toxicology)?**
 - A. Gray**
 - B. Green**
 - C. Lavender**
 - D. Royal Blue**

- 5. Which of the following is NOT a laboratory test performed on royal blue tubes?**
 - A. Toxicology**
 - B. Hematology**
 - C. Trace elements**
 - D. Natural chemistry test**

- 6. What additive is present in PST tubes?**
- A. Ammonium Heparin**
 - B. Sodium Heparin**
 - C. Lithium Heparin**
 - D. Heparin**
- 7. Which color top is used for CBC testing requiring EDTA?**
- A. Gray**
 - B. Gold**
 - C. Lavender**
 - D. Yellow**
- 8. Which of the following is true about SST tubes in chemistry testing?**
- A. They Are Used to Collect Serum for Chemistry Tests**
 - B. They Are Used for Patient Blood Grouping**
 - C. They Are Used for Urine Analysis**
 - D. They Contain EDTA as Anticoagulant**
- 9. Trauma in phlebotomy refers to what?**
- A. Underlining tissue injury due to probing**
 - B. Bruising of tissue**
 - C. Inflammation of a vein**
 - D. Blood clot**
- 10. Which statement best describes the role of the gel in SST tubes?**
- A. It Forms a Barrier Between Serum and Cells**
 - B. It Speeds Clotting**
 - C. It Acts as a Preservative**
 - D. It Changes Color on Centrifugation**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which statement best reflects the safety priority when fainting risk arises during venipuncture?
 - A. Continue the procedure while monitoring the patient.
 - B. Place the patient in a comfortable position and resume when ready.
 - C. Protect patient from injury if anything should occur.**
 - D. Ignore fainting signs and complete the draw.

Fainting risk during venipuncture makes patient safety the top priority. The best course is to protect the patient from injury if anything should occur. That means stopping the procedure, removing or securing any sharp equipment, and getting the patient to a safe position so they can recover—typically supporting them and, if appropriate, lowering any risk of a fall or further injury. Once the patient is stabilized and signs have resolved, you can reassess whether it's safe to proceed. Continuing the draw or ignoring signs puts the patient at real risk of harm, so safety first is the guiding principle.

2. Which color would you expect for the 2nd draw?
 - A. Light Blue**
 - B. Lavender or pink
 - C. Royal Blue
 - D. Gold

This question tests the order of draw and the color coding of tubes used in venipuncture. After collecting any initial samples, the next tube is the light blue top, which contains sodium citrate anticoagulant for coagulation studies (such as PT, aPTT, INR). The citrate tube must be filled to the correct blood-to-anticoagulant ratio (about 9:1) to ensure accurate results, so this specific tube is designated to come second in the sequence. The other colors correspond to different tests and additives (for example, gold for serum with clot activator, lavender for EDTA, royal blue for trace elements), so they aren't used as the second draw. Therefore, the expected second draw is the light blue tube.

3. Royal Blue tubes correspond to which draw?
 - A. 6th draw
 - B. 7th draw**
 - C. 8th draw
 - D. 9th draw

Understanding the order of draw is key. The sequence is arranged to prevent cross-contamination of additives from one tube into the next. Royal blue tubes are used for trace-element and toxicology testing, so they're placed later in the collection sequence to minimize any carryover from the tubes drawn earlier. This is why the royal blue tube is drawn as the seventh tube. There are two variants of royal blue tubes (with EDTA or no additive), but regardless of variant, the standard practice keeps them toward the end of the sequence to preserve sample integrity.

4. Which color top is used for toxicology testing with EDTA (toxicology)?

- A. Gray
- B. Green
- C. Lavender
- D. Royal Blue**

In phlebotomy, tube color signals the additive inside and the tests it's designed for. For toxicology testing that uses EDTA, the royal blue top is the one to use because these tubes are specifically made to be free of trace-element contamination and to contain EDTA as the anticoagulant. That EDTA preserves the sample and prevents coagulation, which is crucial for accurate toxicology and metal analyses. Lavender tubes also contain EDTA, but they're intended mainly for hematology tests like the CBC, not for toxicology. Green tops use heparin, and gray tops are for glucose testing with fluoride/oxalate. So the royal blue top is the best match for EDTA-based toxicology testing.

5. Which of the following is NOT a laboratory test performed on royal blue tubes?

- A. Toxicology
- B. Hematology**
- C. Trace elements
- D. Natural chemistry test

Royal blue tubes are specifically used when metal-free sample handling is required, such as for trace elements and toxicology testing. These tests need to minimize contamination from metals in the tube itself, which is why royal blue tubes are designed with minimal or no metal additives and specialized interiors. Hematology, on the other hand, analyzes blood cells and requires an anticoagulant like EDTA to preserve cells, which is provided by purple (EDTA) tubes rather than royal blue tubes. Because of this anticoagulant requirement and the tube design, hematology tests are not performed on royal blue tubes. The other options align with royal blue tube usage for trace elements and toxicology.

6. What additive is present in PST tubes?

- A. Ammonium Heparin
- B. Sodium Heparin**
- C. Lithium Heparin
- D. Heparin

PST tubes are designed to yield plasma for chemistry testing by preventing clotting and by providing a gel barrier that keeps cells away from plasma after centrifugation. The additive used is heparin, specifically the sodium salt. Heparin inhibits clotting by activating antithrombin III, which blocks thrombin and factor Xa, so blood remains liquid and plasma can be separated easily. The sodium salt is chosen because it gives broad compatibility with many assays and minimizes interference with common chemistry measurements; other heparin salts like lithium or ammonium can complicate certain tests or affect results, and a general "heparin" label can be ambiguous. The gel component forms the barrier between plasma and cells once centrifuged, preserving sample integrity for accurate results.

7. Which color top is used for CBC testing requiring EDTA?

- A. Gray
- B. Gold
- C. Lavender**
- D. Yellow

CBC testing requires an anticoagulant that keeps the blood from clotting while preserving the cells for accurate counts. EDTA does this by binding calcium, which stops the clotting process and helps maintain cell morphology. The lavender (purple) top tube contains EDTA, making it the appropriate choice for CBC procedures that require this anticoagulant. Other colored tops serve different tests: gray for glucose testing with fluoride/oxalate, gold for serum chemistry with a clot activator, and yellow for special tests like blood culture or ACD-based studies. So the lavender top is the one used for CBC with EDTA.

8. Which of the following is true about SST tubes in chemistry testing?

- A. They Are Used to Collect Serum for Chemistry Tests**
- B. They Are Used for Patient Blood Grouping
- C. They Are Used for Urine Analysis
- D. They Contain EDTA as Anticoagulant

SST tubes are designed to yield serum for chemistry testing. They contain a clot activator to speed clot formation and a thixotropic gel that sits between the serum and the clot when the sample is centrifuged. This gel creates a physical barrier, giving you clean, well-separated serum for accurate chemistry assays. The presence of EDTA or other anticoagulants is not characteristic of SST tubes; EDTA is found in lavender-top tubes. SST tubes are not used for urine analysis, which uses urine samples, and they are not the typical choice for blood grouping, which relies on different tube types and additives. So the statement that SST tubes are used to collect serum for chemistry tests is the most accurate reflection of their purpose.

9. Trauma in phlebotomy refers to what?

- A. Underlining tissue injury due to probing**
- B. Bruising of tissue
- C. Inflammation of a vein
- D. Blood clot

Trauma in phlebotomy means underlying tissue injury caused by the needle probing during venipuncture. This focuses on the mechanical damage the needle can cause as it enters and moves through tissue. Bruising can occur as a result, but it's a visible consequence rather than the definition of trauma itself. Inflammation of a vein (phlebitis) and a blood clot (thrombosis) are separate issues, not the basic idea of tissue injury from the puncture. To reduce trauma, use proper technique, stabilize the arm, anchor the vein, insert with the bevel up, and use the smallest appropriate needle with minimal probing.

10. Which statement best describes the role of the gel in SST tubes?

- A. It Forms a Barrier Between Serum and Cells**
- B. It Speeds Clotting**
- C. It Acts as a Preservative**
- D. It Changes Color on Centrifugation**

The main idea here is what the gel in SST tubes does after centrifugation. The gel is a thixotropic separator that moves to sit between the serum (the liquid part you'll test) and the cellular components (the clot and RBCs). By forming this physical barrier, it prevents cells from interacting with or altering the serum after spinning the sample down, which helps keep the analytes stable for accurate laboratory testing. This is why it's the best description: the gel's job is to separate and isolate the serum from cells, not to speed clotting, act as a preservative, or change color during centrifugation.

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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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