

NOCTI Nursing 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 route of medication administration provides the fastest onset of action?**
 - A. Intravenous (IV)**
 - B. Oral**
 - C. Intramuscular**
 - D. Subcutaneous**

- 2. What is the primary reason for maintaining closed sterile technique during urinary catheter care?**
 - A. To prevent introduction of pathogens and reduce risk of CAUTI.**
 - B. To speed up procedure.**
 - C. To minimize patient discomfort.**
 - D. To comply with administrative policy.**

- 3. When using computers in a healthcare setting, which practice is appropriate?**
 - A. Use a coworker's password to chart a client's information**
 - B. Record a client's information**
 - C. Send personal emails from work**
 - D. Access the complete medical record without authorization**

- 4. Belonging and Love needs are best described as?**
 - A. Prestige and feeling of accomplishment**
 - B. Security, safety**
 - C. Intimate relationships, friends**
 - D. Physiological needs**

- 5. Which of the following is an example of standardized handoff communications used to improve patient safety?**
 - A. SOAP**
 - B. RACE**
 - C. SBAR**
 - D. CAUTI**

- 6. When should an incident report be filed?**
- A. File the report only at the end of the shift**
 - B. File the report as soon as possible after the incident**
 - C. Do not file if the event is minor**
 - D. File only after physician review**
- 7. What should the employee do first when he or she has multiple jobs to complete?**
- A. remove the least important job from the list**
 - B. decide which jobs can be delegated**
 - C. arrange the jobs in order of priority**
 - D. match each job with the person who can do it**
- 8. When caring for a client who does not speak English. The healthcare employee must?**
- A. Obtain an interpreter**
 - B. Ask a family member to translate without consent**
 - C. Use a translation app**
 - D. Guess the meaning and proceed**
- 9. Which is a barrier for effective communication with patients?**
- A. Using complicated medical terms**
 - B. Asking clarifying questions**
 - C. Providing plain language explanations**
 - D. Confirming understanding**
- 10. When does the patient need to come back if the physician writes 'Return to office PRN'?**
- A. As necessary**
 - B. On a fixed date**
 - C. Immediately after the visit**
 - D. Never**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which route of medication administration provides the fastest onset of action?

- A. Intravenous (IV)**
- B. Oral**
- C. Intramuscular**
- D. Subcutaneous**

Onset of action is how soon a drug starts to work after it's given. When a medication is given directly into a vein, it enters the bloodstream immediately, with the entire dose available right away for distribution to the body's tissues. This bypasses all the steps required for other routes—no dissolution in the stomach, no absorption through the intestinal lining, and no first-pass metabolism in the liver. Because of that immediate entry into circulation, the effect begins almost at once, making this route the fastest way to achieve action. Oral meds must dissolve, pass through the GI tract, and be absorbed into the bloodstream, which takes time and can be delayed by factors like food in the stomach or variations in gastric emptying. Intramuscular and subcutaneous injections rely on absorption from muscle or fat into the blood, which depends on tissue blood flow and other factors, so they are slower than IV.

2. What is the primary reason for maintaining closed sterile technique during urinary catheter care?

- A. To prevent introduction of pathogens and reduce risk of CAUTI.**
- B. To speed up procedure.**
- C. To minimize patient discomfort.**
- D. To comply with administrative policy.**

Maintaining a closed sterile technique during urinary catheter care centers on preventing pathogens from entering the urinary tract through the catheter. Keeping the system sterile and closed minimizes exposure of the catheter lumen and drainage port to bacteria from hands, supplies, or the environment, which lowers the risk of catheter-associated urinary tract infections. When sterility is compromised, bacteria can be introduced and can ascend the catheter, leading to infection and potential complications. Speed or comfort aren't the primary reasons for this practice; safety from infection is the key purpose. Following sterile technique is essential for patient protection, and it aligns with standard safety practices in care.

- 3. When using computers in a healthcare setting, which practice is appropriate?**
- A. Use a coworker's password to chart a client's information**
 - B. Record a client's information**
 - C. Send personal emails from work**
 - D. Access the complete medical record without authorization**

Using computers in healthcare centers on accurate, confidential documentation. Recording a client's information is the appropriate task because it creates an up-to-date, legal record, supports continuity of care, and ensures data integrity when done by an authorized staff member with proper login. Always use your own credentials, protect passwords, and document only what you are allowed to document. Actions such as using a coworker's password to chart, sending personal emails from work, or accessing the entire medical record without proper authorization violate privacy, security policies, and can endanger patient safety.

- 4. Belonging and Love needs are best described as?**
- A. Prestige and feeling of accomplishment**
 - B. Security, safety**
 - C. Intimate relationships, friends**
 - D. Physiological needs**

Belonging and love needs are social needs that involve forming and maintaining close relationships with others. They include intimate relationships, friendships, family connections, and feeling part of groups. In the traditional model of human motivation, these come after basic survival and safety needs and before esteem needs, reflecting our drive for affectionate bonds and social acceptance. When these needs are met, it supports emotional well-being and a sense of worth; when they're unmet, loneliness and reduced self-esteem can result. The other options describe different categories: prestige and accomplishment align with esteem needs, security with safety needs, and physiological needs with basic survival requirements.

5. Which of the following is an example of standardized handoff communications used to improve patient safety?

- A. SOAP**
- B. RACE**
- C. SBAR**
- D. CAUTI**

The main concept here is using a standardized handoff framework to ensure safe transitions of care by communicating essential information in a consistent way. SBAR, which stands for Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation, provides that structure. In the Situation, you briefly state who the patient is, where they are, and why you're handing off. Background covers relevant history, current problems, medications, allergies, and recent events. Assessment shares your interpretation of the patient's status, including vital signs and any changes or concerns. Recommendation outlines what should happen next—orders, tests, follow-up, and any contingencies if the situation changes. This clear, concise format helps the receiving clinician quickly understand the patient's status, reduces miscommunication, and prompts appropriate, timely actions to safeguard the patient. The other options don't fit because SOAP is a documentation format, not a handoff method; RACE relates to fire safety, not patient handoffs; and CAUTI refers to a condition (catheter-associated urinary tract infection), not a communication process.

6. When should an incident report be filed?

- A. File the report only at the end of the shift**
- B. File the report as soon as possible after the incident**
- C. Do not file if the event is minor**
- D. File only after physician review**

Prompt incident reporting is about capturing accurate details while they're still fresh and initiating the right safety and follow-up processes. Filing the report as soon as possible after the event ensures the sequence of events, who was involved, what occurred, and what immediate actions were taken are documented accurately. Waiting until the end of the shift can lead to forgotten or altered details and gaps in information, which makes it harder to understand what happened and to prevent recurrence. The incident report is an internal safety and quality-management tool, separate from the patient's medical chart, and it doesn't require physician review before it's filed. Even minor events should be documented according to facility policy so patterns can be identified and future incidents prevented. When documenting, include what happened, when and where it occurred, who was involved, witnesses, actions taken, and any injuries or equipment issues.

7. What should the employee do first when he or she has multiple jobs to complete?

- A. remove the least important job from the list**
- B. decide which jobs can be delegated**
- C. arrange the jobs in order of priority**
- D. match each job with the person who can do it**

When you have several tasks to finish, the first step is to arrange them in order of priority by weighing urgency and impact. This creates a clear plan so that the most critical, time-sensitive duties—especially those affecting patient safety or outcomes—are tackled first. With a prioritized sequence in mind, you can then decide what can be delegated to someone else and who is best suited for each task, or determine if any tasks can be postponed or removed. Without setting the priority first, you risk spending time on less important work and missing deadlines on more essential duties. This approach keeps focus on what truly matters and sets up effective delegation and scheduling afterward.

8. When caring for a client who does not speak English. The healthcare employee must?

- A. Obtain an interpreter**
- B. Ask a family member to translate without consent**
- C. Use a translation app**
- D. Guess the meaning and proceed**

Providing accurate, confidential communication with patients who do not speak English is essential in nursing care. The best course is to obtain a qualified interpreter who can translate medical information accurately, preserve privacy, explain options and risks, and verify the patient's understanding and consent. An interpreter who is trained in medical terminology helps prevent miscommunication that could affect diagnosis or treatment and supports culturally sensitive care. Using a family member to translate without consent can breach confidentiality, introduce bias or emotional influence, and may not convey medical nuances correctly. A translation app might assist with basic phrases, but it cannot reliably handle complex medical terminology, verify understanding, or protect privacy. Guessing the meaning and proceeding is unsafe because it risks incorrect treatment decisions and patient harm. If possible, arrange telephonic or video interpretation and involve an interpreter whenever feasible to ensure safe, informed care.

9. Which is a barrier for effective communication with patients?

- A. Using complicated medical terms**
- B. Asking clarifying questions**
- C. Providing plain language explanations**
- D. Confirming understanding**

Using complicated medical terms is a barrier to effective communication with patients because it can leave them unable to understand instructions, risks, or treatment plans. Patients come with varying levels of health literacy, so jargon and unfamiliar terms can create confusion, reduce satisfaction, and lead to mistakes or nonadherence. Speaking in plain language helps ensure the patient grasp what's needed, from how to take medications to what symptoms require attention. Asking clarifying questions, providing plain language explanations, and confirming understanding are all strategies that remove barriers by checking comprehension and ensuring the message is received accurately. In short, terminology that patients don't understand hinders communication, while clear language and verification support effective interaction.

10. When does the patient need to come back if the physician writes 'Return to office PRN'?

- A. As necessary**
- B. On a fixed date**
- C. Immediately after the visit**
- D. Never**

PRN means "as needed." When a physician writes "Return to office PRN," the patient is told to come back only if symptoms or concerns arise or if the condition requires reassessment. It isn't a fixed date for a follow-up, nor does it require an immediate recheck, and it certainly isn't a never-return instruction. So the best answer is to come back as necessary, based on how you feel or how your symptoms progress.

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://noctinursing.examzify.com>

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

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