

Nursing Assistant Certification (NAC) AMCA 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 does the term "distal" refer to?**
 - A. Higher or above, or toward the head**
 - B. Farthest from the point of attachment**
 - C. Nearest the central portion of the body**
 - D. To the back of the body or body part**

- 2. What type of mask should workers wear when coming in contact with tuberculosis patients?**
 - A. A high efficiency particulate air filtration mask**
 - B. A traditional mask**
 - C. Street clothing**
 - D. Sterile gown**

- 3. What is another term for clean technique?**
 - A. Medical Asepsis**
 - B. Surgical Asepsis**
 - C. Hand washing**
 - D. Sterilization**

- 4. What is the main focus of ethical standards in nursing?**
 - A. Providing care to patients**
 - B. Improving the healthcare system**
 - C. Ensuring laws are followed**
 - D. Guiding behavior and decision-making**

- 5. In which situation is it permissible to release information from a patient's records?**
 - A. When an attorney requests it**
 - B. When the patient's employer requests it**
 - C. When the patient's best friend requests it**
 - D. When a court requests it by means of a subpoena**

6. What is an essential consideration when providing first aid?

- A. Be aware of your own limits**
- B. Move the person**
- C. Give the person fluids**
- D. Perform needed emergency procedures**

7. Unauthorized release of confidential patient information is called:

- A. A type of negligence**
- B. Failure to use due care**
- C. Invasion of privacy**
- D. Violation of discovery**

8. Which body organ is primarily affected in a person with pulmonary disease?

- A. Brain**
- B. Kidney**
- C. Lungs**
- D. Stomach**

9. When you are facing someone in normal anatomical position, at which body plane are you looking?

- A. Frontal**
- B. Midsagittal**
- C. Sagittal**
- D. Transverse**

10. Which of the following word parts means 'cold'?

- A. Cry**
- B. Cyan**
- C. Hpyo**
- D. Sub**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does the term "distal" refer to?

- A. Higher or above, or toward the head
- B. Farthest from the point of attachment**
- C. Nearest the central portion of the body
- D. To the back of the body or body part

The term "distal" is a positional descriptor used in anatomy to indicate a location that is farthest from the point of attachment or origin of a limb or structure. In the context of the human body, this means that when referring to a limb, the distal part is further away from the trunk or the central part of the body. For example, the fingers are considered distal compared to the wrist, as the fingers are farther from the point where the arm attaches to the body. This term is particularly useful in medical and nursing settings when assessing and describing locations on the body, providing clarity in communication about a patient's condition or the focus of treatment. Understanding "distal" is essential for accurately following medical directions or performing procedures.

2. What type of mask should workers wear when coming in contact with tuberculosis patients?

- A. A high efficiency particulate air filtration mask**
- B. A traditional mask
- C. Street clothing
- D. Sterile gown

When caring for patients with tuberculosis (TB), it is essential to use appropriate personal protective equipment to minimize the risk of transmission. A high efficiency particulate air filtration mask, often referred to as an N95 respirator, is specifically designed to filter out particulate matter, including airborne pathogens like *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. This type of mask provides a tight fit and is capable of blocking at least 95% of very small (0.3 micron) particles. In the context of TB, which is transmitted through airborne droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes, this type of mask is crucial for protecting healthcare workers. Traditional masks do not have the filtration efficiency required to prevent inhalation of the bacteria. Street clothing does not provide any form of protection against airborne transmission. A sterile gown, while important in certain medical procedures, does not protect against airborne pathogens and is not designed for that purpose. Therefore, the use of a high efficiency particulate air filtration mask is the recommended and proper choice when coming into contact with tuberculosis patients to ensure both safety and compliance with health and safety regulations regarding infectious diseases.

3. What is another term for clean technique?

- A. Medical Asepsis**
- B. Surgical Asepsis**
- C. Hand washing**
- D. Sterilization**

Medical asepsis is commonly known as "clean technique" and refers to practices aimed at reducing the number and transmission of pathogens to minimize the risk of infection. This technique involves maintaining cleanliness through proper hygiene, including handwashing and the careful handling of equipment and surfaces. It is utilized in various healthcare settings to prevent the spread of germs and infections during routine patient care. In contrast, surgical asepsis involves a more rigorous process to eliminate all microorganisms, typically used during surgeries and invasive procedures; while handwashing is a specific practice that falls under the broader umbrella of medical asepsis. Sterilization refers to the process of completely destroying all forms of microbial life, not just reducing their number, which is beyond what is described by clean technique. Thus, medical asepsis is the term that most accurately aligns with the concept of clean technique.

4. What is the main focus of ethical standards in nursing?

- A. Providing care to patients**
- B. Improving the healthcare system**
- C. Ensuring laws are followed**
- D. Guiding behavior and decision-making**

The main focus of ethical standards in nursing is to guide behavior and decision-making. Ethical principles serve as a framework for nurses to navigate complex situations they may encounter in clinical practice. These standards help ensure that nurses act in the best interest of their patients, promote patient autonomy, and provide care that is not only competent but also morally sound. By adhering to ethical standards, nurses are equipped to handle dilemmas that may arise regarding patient care, such as issues of confidentiality, informed consent, and end-of-life decisions. Ethics help professionals weigh potential outcomes and make choices that respect the rights and dignity of individuals. This guiding function is crucial for maintaining trust between patients, their families, and healthcare providers, ultimately enhancing the quality of care delivered. While providing appropriate care to patients, improving the healthcare system, and ensuring compliance with laws are important aspects of healthcare practice, they are more operational in nature compared to the foundational role that ethical standards play in shaping the moral responsibilities and professional conduct of nurses.

5. In which situation is it permissible to release information from a patient's records?

- A. When an attorney requests it**
- B. When the patient's employer requests it**
- C. When the patient's best friend requests it**
- D. When a court requests it by means of a subpoena**

The release of information from a patient's records is legally permitted when a court requests it by means of a subpoena. A subpoena is a legal document that orders an individual to testify or produce evidence, such as medical records, in a legal proceeding. This process is governed by laws that protect patient confidentiality while also ensuring that relevant information can be made available in the interest of justice. In contrast, requests made by an attorney, a patient's employer, or a friend do not typically meet the necessary legal standards for releasing protected health information without the patient's consent. Attorneys must usually have a valid reason related to a legal case, and even then, proper procedures must be followed. Employers may not have the right to access medical records without the patient's explicit permission, and friends do not have the authority to access such private information without the patient's consent. Thus, only a court's subpoena provides the legal authority required to release patient information in a manner that complies with healthcare privacy laws.

6. What is an essential consideration when providing first aid?

- A. Be aware of your own limits**
- B. Move the person**
- C. Give the person fluids**
- D. Perform needed emergency procedures**

When providing first aid, performing needed emergency procedures is critical because it directly addresses the immediate needs of the injured or ill person. First aid is about providing prompt care to stabilize a patient before professional medical help is available, which may include actions like performing CPR, controlling bleeding, or positioning the person appropriately. These procedures can be life-saving and are essential in preventing the individual's condition from worsening. While being aware of your own limits is important, as well as ensuring movement or administering fluids when appropriate, these considerations do not take precedence over the necessity of implementing basic emergency procedures. The focus of first aid is to assess the situation and respond effectively to stabilize the patient, demonstrating the importance of understanding and performing the necessary actions in an emergency context.

7. Unauthorized release of confidential patient information is called:

- A. A type of negligence**
- B. Failure to use due care**
- C. Invasion of privacy**
- D. Violation of discovery**

The unauthorized release of confidential patient information is referred to as invasion of privacy. This occurs when an individual's personal information is disclosed without their consent, breaching their right to keep that information private. In the context of healthcare, patient confidentiality is crucial, as it protects sensitive information that could impact a patient's dignity and trust in the healthcare system. Invasion of privacy can lead to significant consequences for both the patient and the healthcare provider, including loss of trust, potential legal ramifications, and damage to the provider's reputation. It is essential for nursing assistants and other healthcare professionals to understand the importance of maintaining patient confidentiality to prevent such breaches. The other options provided, while related to the broader topic of legal and ethical responsibilities in healthcare, do not specifically address the unauthorized release of information. For example, negligence involves a failure to act with the care that a reasonable person would exercise, and a failure to use due care refers generally to not taking appropriate precautions. A violation of discovery generally pertains to legal proceedings and does not directly apply to the release of patient information in a healthcare setting.

8. Which body organ is primarily affected in a person with pulmonary disease?

- A. Brain**
- B. Kidney**
- C. Lungs**
- D. Stomach**

The primary organ affected in a person with pulmonary disease is the lungs. Pulmonary diseases, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, and pneumonia, directly impact the respiratory system, which is responsible for gas exchange—bringing in oxygen and expelling carbon dioxide. When the lungs are compromised, it can lead to a range of symptoms including difficulty breathing, reduced oxygen levels in the blood, and an increased risk of respiratory infections. The other organs listed are not primarily impacted by pulmonary diseases. The brain may be indirectly affected due to the decreased oxygen supply, but it is not the primary organ involved. Similarly, the kidneys and stomach do not have a direct role in pulmonary function and are largely unaffected by lung-related issues. Understanding that the lungs are the central organ involved provides a clearer insight into the nature and effects of pulmonary diseases.

9. When you are facing someone in normal anatomical position, at which body plane are you looking?

- A. Frontal**
- B. Midsagittal**
- C. Sagittal**
- D. Transverse**

In the normal anatomical position, the body is standing upright, facing forward, with arms at the sides and palms facing forward. When you are facing someone in this position, you are observing them along the frontal plane. The frontal plane divides the body into anterior (front) and posterior (back) sections, which means that when you face someone, you are seeing their front side. This view is distinctly associated with the frontal aspect, as the plane runs vertically and allows for a perspective that differentiates the front from the back of the body. Other planes, such as the midsagittal, sagittal, and transverse planes, do not give you the same orientation when looking directly at someone in an anatomical position. The midsagittal plane specifically divides the body into equal left and right halves, while the sagittal plane is any vertical plane that divides the body into left and right sections. The transverse plane, meanwhile, divides the body into superior (upper) and inferior (lower) portions, which is not applicable when directly facing someone.

10. Which of the following word parts means 'cold'?

- A. Cry**
- B. Cyan**
- C. Hypo**
- D. Sub**

The word part that means 'cold' is derived from "cry," which is a prefix used in medical terminology. In various contexts, this prefix is often associated with cold conditions or could refer to "cryotherapy," which involves the use of cold temperatures for treatment purposes. In contrast, "cyan" refers to a blue color, particularly when talking about the coloration associated with insufficient oxygen in tissues. "Hypo" is a prefix meaning below normal or deficient, often used in contexts like hypoglycemia (low blood sugar). Lastly, "sub" means under or below, as seen in words like subcutaneous (under the skin). Therefore, "cry" is indeed the correct choice to signify 'cold.'

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://nursingassistantcertification-amca.examzify.com>

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

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