

Nursing Ethics, Laws, and Practices 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 justice in nursing ethics?**
 - A. No discrimination and just allocation of resources**
 - B. Discriminating based on age is acceptable**
 - C. No discrimination and just allocation of resources**
 - D. Providing care only to those who can pay**

- 2. Autonomy in health care refers to**
 - A. Physicians' authority overrides patient wishes**
 - B. Patients' right to participate in decisions about their own care**
 - C. Nurses deciding for patients**
 - D. Hospitals deciding without patient input**

- 3. During rounding, which statement best describes the environmental assessment?**
 - A. Yes, to ensure all concerns are acknowledged**
 - B. No, environment is irrelevant**
 - C. Only for infection control**
 - D. Only for equipment checks**

- 4. Which concept focuses on working collaboratively to provide the best patient care?**
 - A. Patient-Centered Care**
 - B. Interprofessional Relationships**
 - C. Advancement of the Profession**
 - D. Lifelong Learning**

- 5. In the listed chain of command, who is typically the first-line supervisor responsible for direct patient care?**
 - A. Charge nurse**
 - B. Administrator**
 - C. ADON**
 - D. CNA/MA**

- 6. The Self-Determination Act, enacted in 1991, emphasizes what principle in health care decisions?**
- A. Autonomy**
 - B. Confidentiality**
 - C. Licensing**
 - D. Scope of practice**
- 7. Which statement describes advancement of the nursing profession?**
- A. Lifelong Learning**
 - B. Interprofessional Relationships**
 - C. Attitude**
 - D. Advancement of the Profession**
- 8. Compassion fatigue is best described as weakness in which domains due to trauma and work difficulties?**
- A. Emotional, physical, spiritual**
 - B. Financial, legal, marketing**
 - C. Cognitive, social, environmental**
 - D. None of the above**
- 9. According to Jean Watson's theory of human caring, how does nursing differ from medicine?**
- A. Caring is the same as curing**
 - B. Caring is optional**
 - C. Caring is less important than technology**
 - D. Caring focuses on CARE, not CURE**
- 10. In the hierarchy of evidence, which type is at the top as the best evidence?**
- A. Case reports / case series**
 - B. Cohort studies**
 - C. Meta-analysis (best)**
 - D. Randomized controlled trials**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which statement best reflects justice in nursing ethics?

- A. No discrimination and just allocation of resources
- B. Discriminating based on age is acceptable
- C. No discrimination and just allocation of resources**
- D. Providing care only to those who can pay

Justice in nursing ethics centers on fairness and equity. It means treating patients without bias and distributing resources in a way that reflects need, not status or wealth. When a statement emphasizes no discrimination and fair allocation of resources, it aligns with distributive justice: every patient should receive appropriate care and access to essential services, regardless of age, background, or ability to pay. Discrimination based on age or restricting care to those who can pay create inequities and undermine ethical nursing practice. In real-world care, decisions about who receives limited resources should be guided by clinical need, potential benefit, and urgency, not personal characteristics or financial means.

2. Autonomy in health care refers to

- A. Physicians' authority overrides patient wishes
- B. Patients' right to participate in decisions about their own care**
- C. Nurses deciding for patients
- D. Hospitals deciding without patient input

Autonomy in health care means honoring a patient's right to participate in decisions about their own care and to make voluntary, informed choices about treatment. It rests on the patient's capacity to understand options, weigh risks and benefits, and communicate a decision free from coercion. Healthcare professionals support autonomy by providing information and obtaining informed consent, but they do not override the patient's choices. For example, a patient can accept or refuse a treatment based on their values, and that decision should be respected if capacity is present. If a patient lacks capacity, a legally authorized surrogate may decide in line with known wishes or best interests. The other situations describe decisions made by clinicians or institutions without patient input, which undermines autonomy.

3. During rounding, which statement best describes the environmental assessment?

- A. Yes, to ensure all concerns are acknowledged
- B. No, environment is irrelevant**
- C. Only for infection control
- D. Only for equipment checks

Environmental assessment during rounding is about ensuring the care setting supports safety and quality. When you round, you look at the surroundings that can affect care delivery: cleanliness and sanitation, potential safety hazards, noise and lighting, temperature and comfort, patient privacy, accessibility, and whether needed equipment and supplies are ready and functioning. This broad view helps catch problems before they impact patients and helps care plans be carried out effectively. So the idea that the environment should be assessed to acknowledge all concerns is the best fit. Saying the environment is irrelevant misses important safety and quality factors, and limiting the assessment to infection control or only to equipment checks ignores other crucial aspects like layout, accessibility, privacy, and comfort that also influence outcomes.

4. Which concept focuses on working collaboratively to provide the best patient care?

- A. Patient-Centered Care
- B. Interprofessional Relationships**
- C. Advancement of the Profession
- D. Lifelong Learning

Working across different health-professional disciplines to coordinate and deliver the best patient care is the idea being tested. Building strong interprofessional relationships creates the teamwork, communication, mutual respect, and shared decision-making essential for safe, effective care. While patient-centered care emphasizes aligning care with the patient's values and preferences, and lifelong learning or advancement of the profession address ongoing education and professional development, respectively, they don't specifically capture the collaborative process among different professionals that this item highlights.

5. In the listed chain of command, who is typically the first-line supervisor responsible for direct patient care?

- A. Charge nurse**
- B. Administrator
- C. ADON
- D. CNA/MA

The charge nurse on a unit is the person who acts as the first-line supervisor for direct patient care during a shift. This role sits on the front lines, coordinating daily care, assigning patients to licensed and unlicensed staff, and ensuring tasks are completed safely and efficiently. The charge nurse also serves as the on-the-spot decision-maker for immediate patient needs, handles bedside issues, and communicates with physicians and other departments as issues arise. In contrast, administrators and the assistant director of nursing operate at a higher, facility-wide or department-wide level, focusing on policy, budgeting, staffing models, and overall operations rather than day-to-day supervision of bedside care. CNAs or medical assistants provide direct patient care but do not typically supervise other staff. So, the charge nurse is the one most closely aligned with supervising direct patient care on the unit during a shift.

6. The Self-Determination Act, enacted in 1991, emphasizes what principle in health care decisions?

- A. Autonomy**
- B. Confidentiality
- C. Licensing
- D. Scope of practice

Autonomy is the guiding principle here. The Self-Determination Act requires health care facilities to inform patients about their rights to participate in decisions about their care and to establish advance directives. It centers on the patient's control over medical choices, including the ability to consent to or refuse treatment and to have those preferences respected, even if the patient's ability to communicate later changes. This emphasis on self-governed decision-making, rather than on privacy of information (confidentiality), regulatory licensing, or the boundaries of professional practice (scope of practice), is what the act is designed to safeguard.

7. Which statement describes advancement of the nursing profession?

- A. Lifelong Learning**
- B. Interprofessional Relationships**
- C. Attitude**
- D. Advancement of the Profession**

Advancement of the nursing profession centers on the field's ongoing growth and elevation—raising standards of practice, expanding roles and education, advancing evidence-based care, and shaping health policy and ethics. Saying advancement of the profession captures the overall process of nursing becoming more capable, credible, and influential as a whole, not just what individual nurses happen to do. Lifelong learning is a crucial mechanism that supports advancement by keeping nurses current, but it describes a method rather than the broader process itself. Interprofessional relationships are essential for strong, integrated care and can drive progress, yet they are a component of advancement rather than the description of the advancement process itself. Attitude reflects professionalism and commitment, which are important, but alone they don't encapsulate how the profession advances overall. So the statement that directly names the advancement of the profession best describes the concept.

8. Compassion fatigue is best described as weakness in which domains due to trauma and work difficulties?

- A. Emotional, physical, spiritual**
- B. Financial, legal, marketing**
- C. Cognitive, social, environmental**
- D. None of the above**

Compassion fatigue shows up as a depletion that touches feelings, energy, and meaning in care work. The best way to describe it is as weakness in emotional, physical, and spiritual domains. Emotionally, caregivers may feel overwhelmed, detached, or lose empathy toward patients. Physically, fatigue can show up as persistent tiredness, sleep problems, or somatic symptoms. Spiritually, there can be a crisis of meaning, reduced purpose, or doubt about one's beliefs and values in the context of caregiving. The other groupings—financial, legal, marketing; or cognitive, social, environmental—do not capture the core way compassion fatigue is conceptualized, which centers on these three intertwined domains.

9. According to Jean Watson's theory of human caring, how does nursing differ from medicine?

- A. Caring is the same as curing**
- B. Caring is optional**
- C. Caring is less important than technology**
- D. Caring focuses on CARE, not CURE**

Jean Watson's theory places caring at the heart of nursing. Nursing is a relational, holistic practice that aims to support the person as a whole—body, mind, and spirit—through presence, empathy, and moral engagement. The goal is to facilitate healing and growth through caring, rather than to cure disease alone; curing is more the domain of medicine. So this view emphasizes CARE over CURE, making the option that centers caring as the focus of nursing the best choice. The other ideas don't fit Watson's perspective: caring is not seen as identical to curing, it is not optional, and it is not portrayed as less important than technology.

10. In the hierarchy of evidence, which type is at the top as the best evidence?

- A. Case reports / case series**
- B. Cohort studies**
- C. Meta-analysis (best)**
- D. Randomized controlled trials**

Meta-analysis sits at the top of the evidence hierarchy because it combines results from multiple studies to produce a single, overall estimate of effect. By systematically identifying and pooling data from many investigations, it increases statistical power, improves precision, and helps determine whether findings are consistent across different populations and settings. When done well, with rigorous study selection, quality appraisal, and assessment of heterogeneity and bias, a meta-analysis provides a more reliable, generalizable conclusion than any single study. Individual randomized trials are indeed strong sources of evidence, but their findings can be limited by sample size, specific contexts, or occasional biases. Observational designs like cohort studies are more prone to confounding and bias, which can distort associations. Case reports and case series lack comparison groups, so they cannot establish causality or generalize reliably. A well-conducted meta-analysis synthesizes the strengths of many studies, offering the best evidence for guiding practice when available.

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://nursingethincslawspractices.examzify.com>

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

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