

ONCOLOGY CERTIFIED NURSE (OCN) NURSING PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

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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 is a significant goal of palliative care for a patient with cancer?**
 - A. Increasing treatment intensity
 - B. Focusing on cure rather than comfort
 - C. Providing symptom relief and improving quality of life
 - D. Limiting patient engagement in decision-making
- 2. Why is it important for oncology nurses to participate in interprofessional teams?**
 - A. To reduce healthcare costs
 - B. To improve regulatory compliance
 - C. To enhance patient outcomes
 - D. To streamline communication
- 3. What lifestyle change can be advantageous for patients with bladder cancer?**
 - A. Increasing intake of soda
 - B. Drinking more caffeine
 - C. Staying hydrated with water and vitamin C
 - D. Eating a high-fat diet
- 4. A patient newly diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma has which of the following findings indicating an unfavorable prognosis?**
 - A. Involvement of one lymph node
 - B. Hemoglobin 14 g/dL
 - C. Presence of A symptoms
 - D. Absolute lymphocyte count 400/mm³
- 5. What vitamin is recommended to consume to help prevent malodorous urine?**
 - A. Vitamin A
 - B. Vitamin C
 - C. Vitamin D
 - D. Vitamin E

- 6. Which type of breast cancer is recognized as the most aggressive?**
- A. Invasive Ductal Carcinoma
 - B. In-Situ Cancer
 - C. Inflammatory Breast Cancer
 - D. Polymorphisms
- 7. How does spinal cord compression typically progress symptomatically?**
- A. Visual disturbances, then sensory loss
 - B. Pain, then motor weakness, sensory loss, motor loss
 - C. Motor loss, then pain, then numbness
 - D. Immediate paralysis
- 8. What does the presence of color variegation in a skin lesion suggest?**
- A. Benign growth
 - B. Potential malignancy
 - C. Congenital defect
 - D. Infection risk
- 9. In Stage 2 lymphedema, what is a notable symptom?**
- A. Pitting edema
 - B. Non-pitting edema
 - C. Greater than 5 cm difference
 - D. Dullness to percussion
- 10. How is the testicular cancer marker AFP mainly used in clinical assessments?**
- A. For diagnosing lung cancer
 - B. For monitoring treatment of testicular and liver cancer
 - C. For assessing pancreatic cancer
 - D. For evaluating breast cancer treatments

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is a significant goal of palliative care for a patient with cancer?

- A. Increasing treatment intensity
- B. Focusing on cure rather than comfort
- C. Providing symptom relief and improving quality of life**
- D. Limiting patient engagement in decision-making

A significant goal of palliative care for a patient with cancer is to provide symptom relief and improve quality of life. Palliative care is designed to address the physical, emotional, spiritual, and social needs of patients who are facing serious illness, including cancer. This approach prioritizes comfort and quality of life, regardless of the stage of the disease or the need for other treatments. By focusing on symptom management, such as alleviating pain, nausea, fatigue, and psychological distress, palliative care aims to enhance the patient's overall well-being. This can make a substantial difference in how patients experience their illness and treatment process. In this context, palliative care can be offered alongside curative treatment or as the primary focus when curative options are no longer viable. The other options do not align with the fundamental principles of palliative care. Increasing treatment intensity contradicts the focus on comfort, and the idea of prioritizing cure over comfort goes against the palliative care philosophy. Additionally, limiting patient engagement in decision-making would be contrary to the core tenets of patient-centered care, which emphasizes collaboration and shared decision-making in managing care and treatment.

2. Why is it important for oncology nurses to participate in interprofessional teams?

- A. To reduce healthcare costs
- B. To improve regulatory compliance
- C. To enhance patient outcomes**
- D. To streamline communication

Participating in interprofessional teams is essential for oncology nurses primarily because it significantly enhances patient outcomes. Collaboration among various healthcare professionals, such as oncologists, pharmacists, dietitians, social workers, and nurses, fosters a holistic approach to patient care. This teamwork allows for a comprehensive evaluation of each patient's needs, ensuring that all aspects of their care are addressed. When oncology nurses work within an interprofessional context, they can share their specialized knowledge and skills, advocate for patients, and contribute to care plans that are tailored to each individual's unique situation. This collective effort can lead to improved management of side effects, better symptom control, and overall improved quality of life for patients undergoing cancer treatment. Furthermore, such collaboration can facilitate timely interventions, reduce the chances of medical errors, streamline treatment protocols, and provide patients with more robust support systems, all of which are critical in the complex landscape of oncology care. Therefore, the emphasis on enhancing patient outcomes through interprofessional teamwork highlights its significance in the field of oncology nursing.

3. What lifestyle change can be advantageous for patients with bladder cancer?

- A. Increasing intake of soda
- B. Drinking more caffeine
- C. Staying hydrated with water and vitamin C**
- D. Eating a high-fat diet

Staying hydrated with water and incorporating vitamin C can be particularly beneficial for patients with bladder cancer. Adequate hydration is essential for maintaining urinary health and can help dilute the urine, which may reduce irritation to the bladder lining and decrease the risk of recurrence or progression of bladder cancer. Additionally, vitamin C is known to acidify the urine and may contribute to reducing the growth of certain types of bacteria in the urinary tract, potentially lowering the risk of urinary infections that could complicate bladder cancer treatment. This lifestyle choice supports the overall health of the urinary system and plays a role in helping manage potential symptoms or treatment side effects related to bladder cancer. While other options may not promote the same benefits, weighing the advantages of proper hydration and nutritional support is crucial for improving the well-being of patients dealing with this condition.

4. A patient newly diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma has which of the following findings indicating an unfavorable prognosis?

- A. Involvement of one lymph node
- B. Hemoglobin 14 g/dL
- C. Presence of A symptoms
- D. Absolute lymphocyte count 400/mm³**

The presence of an absolute lymphocyte count of 400/mm³ is indicative of a less favorable prognosis in a patient with Hodgkin lymphoma. In Hodgkin lymphoma, a lower lymphocyte count can suggest a more aggressive disease and can reflect a higher tumor burden or more advanced disease. Lymphocytes play a crucial role in the immune response, and when their absolute count is low, it can imply that the body's ability to respond to cancer is compromised, which is an unfavorable sign in this context. Elevated disease burden often correlates with a poorer prognosis. In contrast, involvement of one lymph node typically represents early-stage disease, which is usually associated with a better outcome. Hemoglobin levels in the normal range, like 14 g/dL, generally do not indicate significant disease impact or an adverse prognosis. The presence of "A symptoms," which include fever, night sweats, and weight loss, can flag disease presence, but in isolation, they do not provide as definitive a measure of prognosis as lymphocyte count might. Thus, the absolute lymphocyte count is a crucial detail for assessing prognostic implications in Hodgkin lymphoma.

5. What vitamin is recommended to consume to help prevent malodorous urine?

- A. Vitamin A
- B. Vitamin C**
- C. Vitamin D
- D. Vitamin E

Vitamin C is often recommended to help prevent malodorous urine due to its role in enhancing urinary acidity. When the urine becomes more acidic, the growth of bacteria that can contribute to foul odors is inhibited. Additionally, vitamin C can metabolize into compounds that may affect the odor profile of urine. This effect is particularly relevant for individuals who may be at risk of urinary tract infections or other conditions that can lead to unpleasant urine smells. While vitamins A, D, and E are important for various bodily functions, they do not have the same direct impact on urine odor as vitamin C. Vitamin A is essential for vision and immune function, vitamin D is crucial for calcium absorption and bone health, and vitamin E acts primarily as an antioxidant. None of these vitamins possess the specific properties that would help in reducing urine odor in the same way that vitamin C does.

6. Which type of breast cancer is recognized as the most aggressive?

- A. Invasive Ductal Carcinoma
- B. In-Situ Cancer
- C. Inflammatory Breast Cancer**
- D. Polymorphisms

Inflammatory Breast Cancer (IBC) is recognized as the most aggressive type of breast cancer due to its unique characteristics and rapid progression. IBC is not just a subtype of breast cancer but a distinct clinical entity that is often advanced at diagnosis. This form of cancer typically presents with symptoms such as swelling, redness, and warmth of the breast, which can occur within a short time frame. The aggressive nature of IBC is primarily attributed to how it spreads through the skin and lymphatic vessels, often without forming a distinct lump, making early detection challenging. This leads to a higher likelihood of metastasis compared to other types of breast cancer, which may present more slowly and with identifiable tumors. Moreover, IBC may not exhibit the usual findings typical of breast cancer on a mammogram, further complicating early diagnosis. In contrast, other types mentioned, such as Invasive Ductal Carcinoma, while common and sometimes aggressive, generally have a broader range of treatment responses and prognoses. In-situ cancer is typically non-invasive and has excellent outcomes with appropriate treatment, and polymorphisms are variations in DNA that may be associated with cancer risk but do not define a specific cancer type. These factors collectively highlight why IBC stands out as the

7. How does spinal cord compression typically progress symptomatically?

- A. Visual disturbances, then sensory loss
- B. Pain, then motor weakness, sensory loss, motor loss**
- C. Motor loss, then pain, then numbness
- D. Immediate paralysis

Spinal cord compression typically progresses in a manner that reflects the involvement of spinal cord functions. Initially, patients usually experience pain, which can be localized or radicular in nature, as the compression affects the nerve root or the spinal cord itself. This is often the earliest and most prominent symptom. As the condition progresses and the compression continues or worsens, it can lead to motor weakness. This occurs because the compression can impair the motor pathways in the spinal cord. Patients may begin to notice weakness in their limbs, which can manifest as difficulty in walking or performing fine motor tasks. Following motor weakness, sensory loss may occur. This happens because the ascending sensory pathways can also be compromised by the compression. Patients may report numbness, tingling, or decreased sensation in areas below the level of the compression. Finally, if the compression continues and is not promptly addressed, it can lead to complete motor loss or paralysis in severe cases. However, the progression typically follows the sequence of pain, motor weakness, sensory loss, and eventually possible motor loss, making this understanding crucial for timely recognition and intervention in patients with spinal cord compression.

8. What does the presence of color variegation in a skin lesion suggest?

- A. Benign growth
- B. Potential malignancy**
- C. Congenital defect
- D. Infection risk

The presence of color variegation in a skin lesion is often indicative of potential malignancy. This characteristic suggests that the lesion is not uniform in color, which can be a warning sign of irregularities typically associated with cancerous growths, such as melanoma. Melanomas, for instance, can present with multiple shades of tan, brown, black, or even red and white. The diversity of colors within a lesion suggests it may be undergoing changes that are typical of malignancy rather than benign processes. In contrast, benign growths typically exhibit uniform color and texture. While congenital defects may be present as varied colors, they usually have distinct patterns that differ from malignant lesions. Similarly, lesions that are infected may show other signs such as redness and swelling rather than color variegation. Therefore, color variegation serves as a significant clinical sign prompting further evaluation for possible malignancy.

9. In Stage 2 lymphedema, what is a notable symptom?

- A. Pitting edema
- B. Non-pitting edema**
- C. Greater than 5 cm difference
- D. Dullness to percussion

In Stage 2 lymphedema, non-pitting edema is the characteristic symptom. This stage is characterized by more advanced swelling that is typically associated with fibrotic changes in the skin and subcutaneous tissues. Unlike pitting edema, where pressing on the swollen area creates an indentation that persists, non-pitting edema feels firm and does not leave a mark when pressure is applied. At this stage, patients often experience significant swelling that can be painful and may impair mobility. The skin may also appear thickened or hardened due to the buildup of fibrous tissue. Recognizing non-pitting edema is crucial for assessing the severity of lymphedema and planning appropriate treatment, as it indicates a progression from early to more established lymphedema management.

10. How is the testicular cancer marker AFP mainly used in clinical assessments?

- A. For diagnosing lung cancer
- B. For monitoring treatment of testicular and liver cancer**
- C. For assessing pancreatic cancer
- D. For evaluating breast cancer treatments

Alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) is primarily utilized in clinical assessments to monitor treatment and disease progression in patients with testicular cancer and liver cancer. In the context of testicular cancer, particularly non-seminomatous germ cell tumors, elevated levels of AFP can indicate the presence of the disease. Following treatment, such as surgery or chemotherapy, AFP levels are regularly measured to assess the effectiveness of the intervention; decreasing levels suggest a positive response to treatment. Similarly, AFP is significant in liver cancer diagnostics and treatment monitoring. Because certain liver tumors can also produce AFP, elevated levels can denote disease presence, recurrence, or progression. Thus, monitoring AFP serves as a critical tool in managing and assessing treatment for both testicular and liver cancer specifically.

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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://ocn-oncc.examzify.com>

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

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