

# Oncology Nursing Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

**This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,**

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# Table of Contents

<b>Copyright</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>How to Use This Guide</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Questions</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Answers</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Explanations</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>17</b>

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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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.**

## 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.**

## 7. Use Other Tools

**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!**

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## **Questions**

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- 1. What does thrombocytopenia refer to in chemotherapy patients?**
  - A. Decreased white blood cell count**
  - B. Low platelet count**
  - C. Increased bruising**
  - D. Allergic reactions to medication**
- 2. Which of the following represents a psychosocial support area for patients undergoing chemotherapy?**
  - A. Boosting physical activity levels**
  - B. Improving insurance coverage**
  - C. Addressing anxiety and body image disturbances**
  - D. Focusing solely on treatment outcomes**
- 3. What grade is assigned to tumors that are poorly differentiated?**
  - A. G1**
  - B. G2**
  - C. G3**
  - D. G4**
- 4. How can community support enhance cancer prevention strategies?**
  - A. By providing isolation from healthcare professionals**
  - B. By fostering a culture of awareness and engagement**
  - C. By limiting access to cancer education**
  - D. By prioritizing personal gain over community needs**
- 5. What role do oncology nurses play concerning patient education?**
  - A. They provide education exclusively to family members**
  - B. They manage financial consultations for patients**
  - C. They educate patients about their treatment and care**
  - D. They do not play any role in patient education**

**6. Which type of tumor marker is associated with prostate cancer?**

- A. Alpha-fetoprotein**
- B. Carcinoembryonic antigen**
- C. Prostate-specific antigen**
- D. Calcitonin**

**7. What does the term 'nadir' refer to in chemotherapy?**

- A. The optimal drug dosage**
- B. The point when WBCs are at their lowest**
- C. The expected side effects of the drug**
- D. The duration of the treatment cycle**

**8. What type of cancer screening involves a sigmoidoscopy every five years?**

- A. Cervical cancer**
- B. Breast cancer**
- C. Colorectal cancer**
- D. Prostate cancer**

**9. Which of the following is NOT a common route of chemotherapy administration?**

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

**10. Which of the following is a common type of breast cancer?**

- A. Ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS)**
- B. Melanoma**
- C. Non-Hodgkin lymphoma**
- D. Hodgkin lymphoma**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What does thrombocytopenia refer to in chemotherapy patients?**

- A. Decreased white blood cell count**
- B. Low platelet count**
- C. Increased bruising**
- D. Allergic reactions to medication**

Thrombocytopenia specifically refers to a low platelet count in the blood. Platelets are crucial for blood clotting, and a decrease in their number can lead to increased risk of bleeding and difficulty in maintaining hemostasis. In the context of chemotherapy, many oncology treatments can induce thrombocytopenia due to their effects on bone marrow, where blood cells, including platelets, are produced. Frequent monitoring of platelet levels is essential for chemotherapy patients to prevent bleeding complications and manage any risks associated with this condition effectively. Understanding thrombocytopenia is important for nursing practice, as it informs care strategies, patient education regarding signs of bleeding, and the need for potential interventions, such as platelet transfusions, when necessary.

**2. Which of the following represents a psychosocial support area for patients undergoing chemotherapy?**

- A. Boosting physical activity levels**
- B. Improving insurance coverage**
- C. Addressing anxiety and body image disturbances**
- D. Focusing solely on treatment outcomes**

Addressing anxiety and body image disturbances is a critical psychosocial support area for patients undergoing chemotherapy. The experience of receiving cancer treatment is often accompanied by significant emotional and psychological challenges. Patients may face anxiety about their diagnosis, treatment, and potential outcomes, all of which can be exacerbated by the physical changes that chemotherapy may cause. Concerns about body image can arise due to hair loss, weight changes, and other visible effects of treatment, impacting a patient's self-esteem and social interactions. Developing support strategies that focus on these aspects—such as counseling, support groups, or educational resources—can help patients navigate their feelings and improve their overall quality of life during treatment. This holistic approach recognizes the importance of mental and emotional well-being alongside physical health in the cancer care continuum.

### 3. What grade is assigned to tumors that are poorly differentiated?

- A. G1
- B. G2
- C. G3**
- D. G4

Tumors that are poorly differentiated are assigned a grade of G3. This grading system evaluates how much the tumor cells differ from normal cells, which gives insight into the tumor's aggressiveness and potential behavior. Poorly differentiated tumors typically have a more chaotic structure and do not resemble the normal tissue from which they arise. This lack of differentiation is associated with a higher likelihood of aggressive behavior, increased growth rate, and a poorer prognosis. In the grading system, G1 indicates well-differentiated tumors, which closely resemble normal tissues and generally have a better prognosis. G2 refers to moderately differentiated tumors, showing some abnormal characteristics, but not as severe as G3. G4 tumors are considered undifferentiated, where the cancerous cells do not maintain distinct characteristics of any particular tissue type. However, G3 is specifically designated for those tumors that are poorly differentiated but still retain some identifiable features, marking them as aggressive yet not entirely uncharacteristic. This grading helps healthcare providers in making treatment decisions and prognostic assessments for the patient.

### 4. How can community support enhance cancer prevention strategies?

- A. By providing isolation from healthcare professionals
- B. By fostering a culture of awareness and engagement**
- C. By limiting access to cancer education
- D. By prioritizing personal gain over community needs

Community support plays a vital role in enhancing cancer prevention strategies by fostering a culture of awareness and engagement. When communities come together to raise awareness about cancer risks, prevention methods, and healthy lifestyle choices, individuals are more likely to participate in screening programs, adopt healthier behaviors, and support one another in making positive changes. This collective involvement can lead to increased knowledge about cancer, reduction of stigma surrounding the disease, and encouragement for early detection through regular check-ups and screenings. In a supportive community environment, resources for cancer education and prevention become more accessible, helping to ensure that individuals are informed about the importance of lifestyle modifications and preventive measures. This engagement not only enhances individual commitment to cancer prevention but also strengthens community ties that emphasize collective health and well-being. A well-informed community creates a sustainable network that continually reinforces the importance of cancer awareness.

## 5. What role do oncology nurses play concerning patient education?

- A. They provide education exclusively to family members
- B. They manage financial consultations for patients
- C. They educate patients about their treatment and care**
- D. They do not play any role in patient education

Oncology nurses play a vital role in patient education, specifically in regards to treatment and care. Their expertise allows them to communicate effectively with patients about the nature of their diagnosis, the proposed treatment options, potential side effects, and management strategies. This education is important for empowering patients, helping them understand their treatment paths, and enabling informed decision-making about their care. Additionally, oncology nurses provide guidance on managing symptoms, lifestyle modifications, and supportive care resources. They are often the primary point of contact for patients and their families throughout the treatment journey, which places them in an ideal position to deliver comprehensive, tailored education that addresses the specific needs and concerns of each patient.

## 6. Which type of tumor marker is associated with prostate cancer?

- A. Alpha-fetoprotein
- B. Carcinoembryonic antigen
- C. Prostate-specific antigen**
- D. Calcitonin

Prostate-specific antigen (PSA) is a protein produced by both normal and malignant cells of the prostate gland. It is primarily used as a tumor marker in the diagnosis and management of prostate cancer. Elevated levels of PSA in the blood can indicate the presence of prostate cancer, although they can also be elevated in other prostate conditions like benign prostatic hyperplasia or prostatitis. Due to its specificity for prostate tissue, PSA is an essential tool for screening, monitoring treatment response, and detecting recurrence of prostate cancer. In contrast, the other tumor markers listed are associated with different types of cancers. Alpha-fetoprotein is typically linked to liver cancer and germ cell tumors, while carcinoembryonic antigen is more associated with colorectal and other gastrointestinal cancers. Calcitonin is primarily used as a marker for medullary thyroid carcinoma. Understanding the specific associations of these tumor markers with different cancers is crucial for proper diagnosis and management in oncology nursing.

## 7. What does the term 'nadir' refer to in chemotherapy?

- A. The optimal drug dosage
- B. The point when WBCs are at their lowest**
- C. The expected side effects of the drug
- D. The duration of the treatment cycle

The term 'nadir' in the context of chemotherapy specifically refers to the lowest point of a person's blood cell counts following treatment. This is particularly relevant for white blood cells (WBCs), which play a critical role in the body's immune response. After chemotherapy, the bone marrow's ability to produce these cells can be temporarily impaired, leading to a decrease in their count, which is known as the nadir.

Understanding nadir is vital in oncology nursing because it helps in predicting when a patient might be at increased risk for infections due to a reduced immune response, guiding both monitoring and interventions during treatment. Recognizing when this low point occurs allows healthcare providers to implement precautions to prevent complications, manage any side effects, and schedule the next round of chemotherapy appropriately, considering the patient's current blood cell levels.

## 8. What type of cancer screening involves a sigmoidoscopy every five years?

- A. Cervical cancer
- B. Breast cancer
- C. Colorectal cancer**
- D. Prostate cancer

The screening procedure that involves a sigmoidoscopy every five years is specifically related to colorectal cancer. Sigmoidoscopy is a minimally invasive procedure that allows for the examination of the lower part of the colon (sigmoid colon) and rectum. It is an effective method for detecting abnormalities such as polyps or cancer at an early stage, which can significantly improve outcomes. Colorectal cancer screening guidelines recommend regular screenings beginning around the age of 45 for average-risk individuals, with several methods available, including sigmoidoscopy and colonoscopy. The five-year interval for sigmoidoscopy screenings balances the need for early detection with the decreased frequency of monitoring required when combined with other screening methods like stool testing. In contrast, screenings for cervical, breast, and prostate cancers involve different methods and schedules, such as Pap smears, mammograms, and prostate-specific antigen (PSA) testing, none of which includes sigmoidoscopy. Therefore, understanding the specific purpose and methodology behind colorectal cancer screening is essential for recognizing why sigmoidoscopy is relevant in this context.

**9. Which of the following is NOT a common route of chemotherapy administration?**

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

Topical administration is not a common route of chemotherapy administration, which is why it is the correct answer. Chemotherapeutic agents are primarily designed to target systemic effects throughout the body, particularly in fighting cancer that has spread beyond a localized area. Intravenous (IV) and oral routes are widely used due to their effectiveness in delivering drugs directly into the bloodstream, allowing for rapid absorption and distribution to various tissues. Intramuscular (IM) administration is also utilized for certain chemotherapeutic agents, though it is less common than IV or oral routes. In contrast, topical administration refers to applying a treatment to the skin or mucous membranes to localize effect, which is primarily used for conditions like skin cancer rather than systemic chemotherapy. Therefore, while topical treatments exist in oncology, they are not a standard route for administering chemotherapy aimed at treating more widespread cancers.

**10. Which of the following is a common type of breast cancer?**

- A. Ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS)**
- B. Melanoma**
- C. Non-Hodgkin lymphoma**
- D. Hodgkin lymphoma**

Ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) is indeed a common type of breast cancer. It is characterized as a non-invasive form of breast cancer where abnormal cells are found in the lining of breast ducts but have not invaded surrounding breast tissue. This means it is generally considered to be at an earlier stage of cancer development, and although it is not life-threatening, it can increase the risk of developing invasive breast cancer later on. In contrast, the other options listed are types of cancers that do not specifically pertain to breast tissue. Melanoma is a form of skin cancer that develops in the pigment-producing melanocytes. Non-Hodgkin lymphoma and Hodgkin lymphoma are types of cancers that affect the lymphatic system, which plays a role in the immune system but is unrelated to breast cancer. Therefore, among the choices provided, ductal carcinoma in situ is the only one that is a common type directly associated with breast cancer.

# 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://oncologynurse.examzify.com>**

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

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