

# Oncology Nursing Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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

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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>5</b>
<b>Answers</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Explanations</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>16</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. 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. At what age is it recommended that both men and women begin screening for colorectal cancer?**
  - A. 40 years**
  - B. 45 years**
  - C. 50 years**
  - D. 55 years**
  
- 2. What typically characterizes the growth of malignant cells as opposed to benign cells?**
  - A. Encapsulation and slow growth**
  - B. Rapid growth and migration**
  - C. Limited growth and defined borders**
  - D. Non-migratory and well-differentiated**
  
- 3. What is the first step in managing an extravasation event?**
  - A. Administer additional chemotherapy**
  - B. Stop the infusion and do not discontinue the IV**
  - C. Call the patient's family**
  - D. Change the IV site immediately**
  
- 4. Which of the following is an important consideration when administering chemotherapy?**
  - A. Anyone can administer chemotherapy**
  - B. Certified personnel must handle chemotherapy**
  - C. Gloves and gowns are optional**
  - D. Monitoring for side effects is not necessary**
  
- 5. What is the primary use of the Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) test?**
  - A. Screening for breast cancer**
  - B. Monitoring prostate cancer after initial treatment**
  - C. Detecting skin cancer**
  - D. Evaluating lung cancer risk**

- 6. Which of the following is NOT a key element of effective communication with oncology patients?**
- A. Empathy**
  - B. Active listening**
  - C. Providing vague information**
  - D. Respect for patient's preferences**
- 7. What role does patient education play in radiation safety?**
- A. It has no significant role**
  - B. It helps patients understand the importance of compliance**
  - C. It minimizes the need for safety protocols**
  - D. It encourages patients to avoid radiation therapy**
- 8. Which of the following is an important aspect of providing resources in cancer prevention outreach?**
- A. Exclusively using digital communication**
  - B. Ignoring local community needs**
  - C. Tailoring resources to meet specific community concerns**
  - D. Focusing on general information without specifics**
- 9. According to current guidelines, how often should women aged 30 to 65 have HPV and Pap co-testing?**
- A. Every year**
  - B. Every two years**
  - C. Every three years**
  - D. Every five years**
- 10. What is the main focus of an oncologist in patient care?**
- A. To only conduct surgery**
  - B. To manage pain only**
  - C. To provide a comprehensive treatment plan**
  - D. To focus solely on clinical trials**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. At what age is it recommended that both men and women begin screening for colorectal cancer?**

- A. 40 years**
- B. 45 years**
- C. 50 years**
- D. 55 years**

Screening for colorectal cancer is recommended to begin at age 45 for both men and women, as established by the American Cancer Society and other health organizations. This guideline is based on research indicating that colorectal cancer rates are increasing in younger populations, leading to the decision to lower the screening age from the previous recommendation of 50 years. Starting screening at 45 allows for earlier detection of precancerous lesions and tumors, which can significantly improve outcomes and survival rates. By adhering to this recommendation, healthcare providers can help ensure that individuals are monitored for potential risks and can receive timely interventions if necessary.

**2. What typically characterizes the growth of malignant cells as opposed to benign cells?**

- A. Encapsulation and slow growth**
- B. Rapid growth and migration**
- C. Limited growth and defined borders**
- D. Non-migratory and well-differentiated**

Malignant cells are characterized by rapid growth and the ability to migrate beyond their original site, which distinguishes them from benign cells. This rapid proliferation is due to their uncontrolled division, where the regulatory mechanisms that normally control cell growth and apoptosis are disrupted. As malignant cells grow, they can invade nearby tissues and spread to distant sites through a process called metastasis, which is a hallmark of cancer. In contrast, benign cells typically grow slowly and are usually encapsulated, meaning they are contained within a defined boundary and do not invade surrounding tissues. They also tend to have a more organized structure and are well-differentiated, maintaining more normal cell functions compared to malignant cells. This encapsulation and the inability to metastasize are key differentiators that help in identifying benign tumors in medical assessments.

**3. What is the first step in managing an extravasation event?**

- A. Administer additional chemotherapy**
- B. Stop the infusion and do not discontinue the IV**
- C. Call the patient's family**
- D. Change the IV site immediately**

In the event of an extravasation, the immediate priority is to stop the infusion while leaving the intravenous (IV) access in place. This action helps to prevent further extravasation of the chemotherapeutic agent into the surrounding tissue, which can lead to significant complications such as tissue damage or necrosis. By not discontinuing the IV access, healthcare providers can more easily administer appropriate treatments or antidotes that may be necessary for managing the extravasation. Stopping the infusion ensures that there is no additional medication entering the tissue while allowing for assessment and intervention at the site. After this step, proper evaluation of the extravasation extent, the medication involved, and administration of any necessary treatments can follow. This approach is critical for the best possible outcomes for the patient in managing the incident effectively and safely.

**4. Which of the following is an important consideration when administering chemotherapy?**

- A. Anyone can administer chemotherapy**
- B. Certified personnel must handle chemotherapy**
- C. Gloves and gowns are optional**
- D. Monitoring for side effects is not necessary**

The administration of chemotherapy requires strict adherence to safety and handling protocols due to the potential hazards associated with these potent medications. Certified personnel must handle chemotherapy because these healthcare providers are specifically trained to understand the pharmacology of these agents, recognize the potential side effects and complications, and follow the correct protocols for safe administration. This includes knowledge of the necessary precautions to minimize exposure and risk for both staff and patients, ensuring safe handling and administration of chemotherapeutic agents. Handling chemotherapy improperly can pose risks such as accidental exposure, which can lead to various health issues. Furthermore, only certified personnel are equipped to manage any adverse reactions that may arise during or after the administration of these drugs. The focus on appropriate training and certification helps to ensure the safety of both patients receiving the treatment and the healthcare providers administering it. Other options present misinformation regarding the standards of chemotherapy administration, emphasizing the necessity of adherence to established protocols to maintain a safe clinical environment.

**5. What is the primary use of the Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) test?**

- A. Screening for breast cancer**
- B. Monitoring prostate cancer after initial treatment**
- C. Detecting skin cancer**
- D. Evaluating lung cancer risk**

The primary use of the Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) test is to monitor prostate cancer after initial treatment. PSA is a protein produced by both normal and malignant cells of the prostate gland, and its levels can be indicative of the presence of prostate cancer. Following treatment for prostate cancer, such as surgery or radiation therapy, regular PSA testing helps healthcare providers assess whether the treatment was effective and if the cancer has recurred. Elevated levels of PSA after treatment may suggest that the cancer has returned, guiding further diagnostic and therapeutic decisions. While there can be discussions about the use of PSA in the early detection of prostate cancer, its most critical role lies in the post-treatment monitoring phase. This focus is essential for ongoing patient management and ensuring timely interventions if necessary. The other options do not relate to the specific utility of the PSA test in oncology practice.

**6. Which of the following is NOT a key element of effective communication with oncology patients?**

- A. Empathy**
- B. Active listening**
- C. Providing vague information**
- D. Respect for patient's preferences**

Providing vague information is not a key element of effective communication with oncology patients, as clarity is essential in healthcare communication. Oncology patients are often faced with complex information about their diagnosis, treatment options, and emotional responses to their situation. Effective communication requires that patients understand their condition and the decisions they need to make regarding their care. Empathy plays a crucial role because it helps the healthcare provider connect with the patient on an emotional level, demonstrating understanding and support during a challenging time. Active listening is another essential component; it allows healthcare providers to fully comprehend patients' concerns, questions, and preferences, ensuring that the patient's voice is heard. Lastly, respecting a patient's preferences is critical in fostering a trusting relationship, empowering patients to make informed decisions about their treatment and care. Together, these elements form the foundation of effective communication, while vague information undermines this process and can lead to confusion and anxiety for the patient.

**7. What role does patient education play in radiation safety?**

- A. It has no significant role**
- B. It helps patients understand the importance of compliance**
- C. It minimizes the need for safety protocols**
- D. It encourages patients to avoid radiation therapy**

Patient education plays a crucial role in radiation safety by helping patients understand the importance of compliance with safety measures before, during, and after radiation therapy treatments. When patients are well-informed, they are more likely to follow prescribed instructions and precautions which are vital in ensuring their own safety as well as the safety of those around them. Knowledge gained through patient education empowers patients to comprehend why certain protocols exist, such as the need for physical distance during treatments or following specific hygiene practices to minimize exposure. This understanding can lead to better cooperation, less anxiety about the procedure, and increased adherence to safety guidelines, which is essential for the effective management of radiation therapy. Proper education also addresses potential misconceptions about radiation, thus fostering a more positive perception and greater trust in the treatment process. This commitment to adhering to safety practices ultimately enhances overall treatment outcomes and optimizes the safe delivery of care in oncology settings.

**8. Which of the following is an important aspect of providing resources in cancer prevention outreach?**

- A. Exclusively using digital communication**
- B. Ignoring local community needs**
- C. Tailoring resources to meet specific community concerns**
- D. Focusing on general information without specifics**

Tailoring resources to meet specific community concerns is crucial in cancer prevention outreach because it ensures that the information and support provided are relevant and effective for the population being served. Each community has unique demographics, cultural practices, risk factors, and health beliefs that influence how they perceive cancer and engage with prevention strategies. By customizing resources to align with the specific needs and concerns of the community, healthcare providers can enhance engagement, increase awareness of risk factors, and promote appropriate screening and prevention methods. Additionally, when resources are tailored, they are more likely to resonate with the community members and address their particular challenges or barriers to accessing care and prevention services. This approach fosters trust and encourages community involvement, leading to better health outcomes and increased participation in cancer prevention initiatives.

**9. According to current guidelines, how often should women aged 30 to 65 have HPV and Pap co-testing?**

- A. Every year**
- B. Every two years**
- C. Every three years**
- D. Every five years**

Women aged 30 to 65 are recommended to undergo HPV and Pap co-testing every five years according to current guidelines. This interval strikes a balance between the need for screening to detect cervical cancer early and the realization that more frequent testing may not significantly reduce the risk of cervical cancer compared to the five-year interval. The combination of HPV testing with Pap smears is particularly effective because HPV testing helps identify high-risk strains of the virus that are most commonly associated with cervical cancer. When both tests are done together, they can provide a more comprehensive assessment of cervical health, allowing for earlier interventions when necessary while minimizing the potential for over-screening. Yearly or biannual screenings may lead to unnecessary follow-ups and interventions for cases that may not progress to cancer. The five-year interval reflects a thoughtful approach to ensure that screening is both effective and efficient, aligning with recommendations from health organizations that emphasize the importance of balancing benefits and risks associated with cervical cancer screening.

**10. What is the main focus of an oncologist in patient care?**

- A. To only conduct surgery**
- B. To manage pain only**
- C. To provide a comprehensive treatment plan**
- D. To focus solely on clinical trials**

The main focus of an oncologist in patient care is to provide a comprehensive treatment plan. Oncologists are medical doctors who specialize in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of cancer. Their role involves more than just one type of intervention; they consider the entire spectrum of cancer care, which includes surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, immunotherapy, and supportive care. A comprehensive treatment plan is tailored to the individual needs of each patient, taking into account the type of cancer, its stage, the patient's overall health, and personal preferences. This holistic approach ensures that both the physical and emotional needs of the patient are addressed, improving the overall quality of life and treatment outcomes. Oncologists also coordinate with a multidisciplinary team of healthcare professionals, which may include nurses, social workers, and nutritionists, all of whom contribute to a well-rounded care strategy. While managing pain is an important aspect of cancer care, as is participation in clinical trials, these elements are part of the larger goal of supporting the patient through the complexities of cancer treatment. Focusing solely on surgery or on clinical trials would not encompass the full range of responsibilities an oncologist has in providing care.

## 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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