

ONS/ONCC CHEMOTHERAPY IMMUNOTHERAPY CAQ RENEWAL PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence



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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 are the signs of an allergic reaction to chemotherapy medication?**
 - A. Rash, itching, swelling, and difficulty breathing
 - B. Headache, dizziness, and fatigue
 - C. Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea
 - D. Chest pain, shortness of breath, and fever

- 2. Which medication is likely responsible for Mr. Rylan's constipation?**
 - A. Cyclophosphamide
 - B. Oncovin (vincristine)
 - C. Dexamethasone
 - D. Rituximab

- 3. How should a nurse respond to a patient experiencing severe nausea after chemotherapy?**
 - A. Assess the severity and provide antiemetic medication
 - B. Offer dietary changes and alternative therapies
 - C. Suspend chemotherapy treatment immediately
 - D. Encourage the patient to manage symptoms on their own

- 4. Which option represents a potential synergistic risk when combined with doxorubicin?**
 - A. Beta-blockers
 - B. Proton pump inhibitors
 - C. Cyclophosphamide
 - D. Antihistamines

- 5. If a patient shows signs of an infusion-related hypersensitivity reaction, what should be your first action?**
 - A. Monitor vital signs until the reaction subsides
 - B. Stop the paclitaxel infusion immediately
 - C. Give the patient an antihistamine
 - D. Administer intravenous fluids

- 6. What is an essential aspect of supportive care in chemotherapy?**
- A. Curing the cancer directly
 - B. Managing symptoms and enhancing quality of life
 - C. Focusing only on physical health
 - D. Minimizing communication with patients
- 7. What is a common side effect of chemotherapy?**
- A. Increased hair growth
 - B. Weight gain
 - C. Nausea and vomiting
 - D. Enhanced immune function
- 8. What is the impact of colony-stimulating factors given intravenously instead of subcutaneously?**
- A. It is a standard practice for infection prevention
 - B. It is unlikely to be effective for infection prevention
 - C. It is necessary for all patients
 - D. It enhances immune response
- 9. In oncology nursing, why is a multimodal approach to pain management beneficial?**
- A. It provides a single solution for all patients
 - B. It addresses multiple dimensions of a patient's pain experience
 - C. It is easier to implement than pharmacological treatments
 - D. It focuses solely on the psychological aspects of pain
- 10. How should Mr. Patterson handle situations where chemotherapy is spilled?**
- A. Use paper towels to clean it
 - B. Seal off the area and wait for help
 - C. Use the spill kit provided
 - D. Flush it with water

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What are the signs of an allergic reaction to chemotherapy medication?

A. Rash, itching, swelling, and difficulty breathing

B. Headache, dizziness, and fatigue

C. Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea

D. Chest pain, shortness of breath, and fever

The signs of an allergic reaction to chemotherapy medication typically include rash, itching, swelling, and difficulty breathing. These symptoms are indicative of an immune response to a substance perceived as harmful, in this case, the chemotherapy drug. Rash and itching can occur as the body releases histamines and other chemicals in reaction to the drug, leading to symptoms commonly associated with allergic responses. Swelling, also known as edema, can manifest as localized inflammation in response to the allergens. Difficulty breathing is particularly serious, as it may signify anaphylaxis, a severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction that requires immediate medical attention. In contrast, the other options represent symptoms that are not primarily associated with allergic reactions. Headache, dizziness, and fatigue can be side effects of chemotherapy but do not indicate an allergic response. Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea are common side effects of chemotherapy treatment itself rather than signs of an allergy. Similarly, chest pain, shortness of breath, and fever could suggest other complications, such as infection or pulmonary issues, but are not definitive signs of an allergic reaction. Thus, option A provides the most accurate representation of the signs associated with an allergic reaction to chemotherapy medication.

2. Which medication is likely responsible for Mr. Rylan's constipation?

A. Cyclophosphamide

B. Oncovin (vincristine)

C. Dexamethasone

D. Rituximab

Vincristine is known to cause constipation as a common side effect. This medication, which is part of the class of drugs known as vinca alkaloids, works by disrupting the process of cell division, specifically targeting rapidly dividing cancer cells. However, this mechanism can also affect the gastrointestinal (GI) tract and lead to decreased bowel motility. Constipation from vincristine can occur due to its impact on the autonomic nervous system, which controls the intestines. The drug can cause paralysis of the bowel, leading to decreased peristalsis (the contractions that move contents through the intestines) and resulting in constipation. Healthcare providers often monitor patients receiving vincristine closely for this side effect and may recommend preventative measures or treatments to manage constipation. While other medications listed may have side effects, they are not as classically linked to constipation as vincristine. Cyclophosphamide, dexamethasone, and rituximab have their own side effects but do not typically cause constipation as a prominent issue, making vincristine the most likely culprit in this scenario.

3. How should a nurse respond to a patient experiencing severe nausea after chemotherapy?

- A. Assess the severity and provide antiemetic medication**
- B. Offer dietary changes and alternative therapies
- C. Suspend chemotherapy treatment immediately
- D. Encourage the patient to manage symptoms on their own

The appropriate response to a patient experiencing severe nausea after chemotherapy is to assess the severity of the symptoms and provide antiemetic medication. This approach is crucial because severe nausea can significantly impact a patient's quality of life and their ability to continue with treatment. By assessing the severity, the nurse can determine if the nausea is a mild issue that could be managed with over-the-counter remedies or if it requires a stronger prescription antiemetic. Administering antiemetic medications promptly is essential for managing chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV). These medications can help prevent nausea from becoming more severe and can allow the patient to better tolerate their treatment and maintain adequate nutrition and hydration. Effective management of these side effects can also improve the patient's overall sense of well-being and willingness to continue their treatment plan. The other options, while they may have some validity in certain contexts, do not address the immediate needs of the patient experiencing severe nausea. Offering dietary changes and alternative therapies may be beneficial in a supportive care context but should not replace the need for medical management of severe symptoms. Suspending chemotherapy treatment immediately is not a standard response, as it may inadvertently harm the patient's treatment plan. Encouraging the patient to manage symptoms on their own is not appropriate in the case of

4. Which option represents a potential synergistic risk when combined with doxorubicin?

- A. Beta-blockers
- B. Proton pump inhibitors
- C. Cyclophosphamide**
- D. Antihistamines

The combination of doxorubicin with cyclophosphamide represents a potential synergistic risk because both agents are known to have myelosuppressive effects. When these two chemotherapy drugs are used together, there is an increased likelihood of exacerbating bone marrow suppression, which can lead to greater risks of neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, and anemia. This intensification of toxicity necessitates close monitoring of blood counts and may require dose adjustments or supportive measures such as growth factor support to mitigate the increased risk of infection and bleeding. On the other hand, beta-blockers, proton pump inhibitors, and antihistamines do not share a similar risk profile when combined with doxorubicin. They generally do not have the same mechanism of action or overlapping toxicities that would lead to a compounded risk of significant side effects like myelosuppression. Therefore, while these medications may interact with doxorubicin in other ways, they do not pose an enhanced synergistic risk in the same manner as cyclophosphamide.

5. If a patient shows signs of an infusion-related hypersensitivity reaction, what should be your first action?

- A. Monitor vital signs until the reaction subsides
- B. Stop the paclitaxel infusion immediately**
- C. Give the patient an antihistamine
- D. Administer intravenous fluids

Stopping the paclitaxel infusion immediately is the appropriate first action when a patient exhibits signs of an infusion-related hypersensitivity reaction. This response is crucial because continuing the infusion could exacerbate the patient's condition and lead to more severe reactions, some of which may be life-threatening. In the case of a hypersensitivity reaction, the goal is to prevent further exposure to the allergen or irritant (in this case, paclitaxel). This action allows for the necessary interventions to begin without the risk of worsening the patient's symptoms. After stopping the infusion, the healthcare team can then assess the patient's symptoms, provide supportive care, and administer appropriate medications like antihistamines or corticosteroids as needed to manage the reaction and its symptoms. Monitoring vital signs, giving antihistamines, or administering intravenous fluids may be necessary actions following the cessation of the infusion, but these should occur after the immediate step of stopping the drug to prevent further exposure.

6. What is an essential aspect of supportive care in chemotherapy?

- A. Curing the cancer directly
- B. Managing symptoms and enhancing quality of life**
- C. Focusing only on physical health
- D. Minimizing communication with patients

Supportive care in chemotherapy is fundamentally about managing symptoms and enhancing quality of life for patients undergoing cancer treatment. This aspect is crucial because chemotherapy can lead to a variety of side effects, such as nausea, pain, fatigue, and emotional distress. By focusing on symptom management, healthcare providers can help patients maintain a better quality of life during what can be a challenging and taxing treatment process. Effective supportive care involves a multidisciplinary approach, addressing not only the physical but also the emotional and psychological needs of patients. This may include providing medications to alleviate side effects, offering nutritional support, and facilitating counseling services. Such comprehensive care acknowledges that while the primary goal of chemotherapy may be to treat the cancer, the patient's overall well-being, comfort, and quality of life are equally important. The other options do not align with the essence of supportive care. For instance, curing the cancer directly is a goal of treatment itself, not of supportive care. Focusing only on physical health ignores the holistic nature of patient care, which should also incorporate emotional and psychological support. Lastly, minimizing communication with patients contradicts the necessity of fostering a supportive environment through open dialogue, which is vital for addressing concerns and improving patient experiences.

7. What is a common side effect of chemotherapy?

- A. Increased hair growth
- B. Weight gain
- C. Nausea and vomiting**
- D. Enhanced immune function

Nausea and vomiting are among the most common side effects experienced by patients undergoing chemotherapy. This reaction is often a result of the way chemotherapy drugs target rapidly dividing cells, which include not only cancer cells but also other normal cells in the body, such as those in the lining of the gastrointestinal tract. Chemotherapy agents can stimulate the vomiting center in the brain or lead to the release of neurotransmitters that trigger nausea. As a result, many patients receive anti-emetic medications before or after their chemotherapy sessions to help manage these symptoms. Understanding the prevalence of nausea and vomiting in chemotherapy patients is crucial for providing comprehensive care and improving the overall quality of life during treatment. The other choices, while they may pertain to various health conditions or treatments, do not accurately represent common side effects associated specifically with chemotherapy. For example, increased hair growth is not a typical side effect, as most chemotherapy regimens lead to hair loss rather than growth. Weight gain may occur in some patients due to lifestyle changes or hormonal imbalances but is not a direct consequence of chemotherapy itself. Enhanced immune function is not a characteristic of chemotherapy, which often suppresses the immune system, making patients more susceptible to infections.

8. What is the impact of colony-stimulating factors given intravenously instead of subcutaneously?

- A. It is a standard practice for infection prevention
- B. It is unlikely to be effective for infection prevention**
- C. It is necessary for all patients
- D. It enhances immune response

The choice that states it is unlikely to be effective for infection prevention is accurate because colony-stimulating factors (CSFs) are typically used to stimulate the production of white blood cells in patients with conditions such as chemotherapy-induced neutropenia. The administration route can influence the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of these agents. When CSFs are administered intravenously rather than subcutaneously, they may not achieve the desired effect of appropriately mobilizing and stimulating the bone marrow to produce neutrophils effectively. The subcutaneous route is generally preferred because it allows for a sustained release of the drug into the bloodstream, promoting a more efficient and prolonged increase in white blood cell counts. In contrast, intravenous administration may result in a rapid increase in drug levels, but this does not necessarily correlate with an effective increase in white blood cell production. Therefore, while intravenous CSF therapy can be used in some cases, it may not be the best method for preventing infections in most patients receiving chemotherapy. The other choices suggest standard practices or effects that do not align with the pharmacological reasoning or typical clinical application of CSFs. For instance, while enhancing the immune response is a potential effect of CSFs, this is not guaranteed when the drug is given intravenously.

9. In oncology nursing, why is a multimodal approach to pain management beneficial?

- A. It provides a single solution for all patients
- B. It addresses multiple dimensions of a patient's pain experience**
- C. It is easier to implement than pharmacological treatments
- D. It focuses solely on the psychological aspects of pain

A multimodal approach to pain management is beneficial in oncology nursing because it recognizes that pain is a complex and multidimensional experience. This approach involves integrating various modalities of treatment—these can include pharmacological interventions, physical therapy, psychological support, and complementary therapies. Each of these modalities can target different aspects of pain, including physical, emotional, and social factors, thereby addressing the comprehensive needs of the patient. By focusing on multiple dimensions of the pain experience, healthcare providers can tailor interventions to the individual needs of each patient. This not only improves pain control but also enhances overall quality of life, as patients often experience pain on different levels—physical pain along with emotional responses to their condition. The single-solution concept does not reflect the reality of pain management, as pain varies greatly among individuals due to a range of factors. Implementation ease is not the main focus; rather, effectiveness and comprehensiveness are prioritized in a multimodal approach. Lastly, limiting the focus solely to psychological aspects of pain neglects the importance of the physical and biological components inherent in oncology patients' pain profiles. Thus, acknowledging and addressing the multifaceted nature of pain leads to better clinical outcomes and patient satisfaction.

10. How should Mr. Patterson handle situations where chemotherapy is spilled?

- A. Use paper towels to clean it
- B. Seal off the area and wait for help
- C. Use the spill kit provided**
- D. Flush it with water

When dealing with chemotherapy spills, it is critical to follow proper protocols to ensure safety and minimize exposure to hazardous materials. Using the spill kit provided is the best course of action because these kits are specifically designed to contain and safely clean up hazardous substances. They typically include absorbent materials, personal protective equipment (PPE), and instructions for the safe handling of the spilled chemotherapy agent. Utilizing a spill kit helps prevent environmental contamination and reduces the risk of exposure to staff, patients, and the surrounding area. The materials in the spill kit are tailored to effectively contain the specific type of chemotherapy involved, ensuring that it is managed safely and efficiently. In contrast, using paper towels without the appropriate protective equipment may expose the person cleaning up to toxic substances, while flushing the area with water could dilute the spill but might not effectively contain it or address the hazards. Sealing off the area and waiting for help may delay necessary actions, allowing the hazardous material to remain a risk for a longer duration. Therefore, following established spill response protocols and utilizing the spill kit is the best practice in this scenario.

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:

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

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