

PEBC Pharmacy Technician 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. Verifying patient identity serves what primary purpose in medication dispensing?**
 - A. To ensure proper billing procedures**
 - B. To prevent medication errors**
 - C. To streamline pharmacy operations**
 - D. To collect patient feedback**

- 2. Which of the following is advisable in relation to smoking and certain medications?**
 - A. It is recommended to smoke less**
 - B. Do not smoke**
 - C. Smoke only after taking medications**
 - D. It does not affect medications**

- 3. At what age can infants start receiving the flu vaccine?**
 - A. 3 months**
 - B. 6 months**
 - C. 12 months**
 - D. 2 years**

- 4. What is the purpose of warning labels on medication bottles?**
 - A. To increase marketability of the drug**
 - B. To ensure compliance with legal regulations**
 - C. To inform patients about potential side effects, drug interactions, and proper usage**
 - D. To provide dosage information only**

- 5. Which strategy best supports patient safety in medication administration?**
 - A. Prioritizing speed over accuracy**
 - B. Double-checking medications before administration**
 - C. Relying solely on the patient's verbal instructions**
 - D. Reducing the number of medications prescribed**

- 6. What does "off-label" use of a medication refer to?**
- A. Using a medication for a purpose approved by FDA**
 - B. Using a medication for a purpose other than its approved indication**
 - C. Administering a medication via a different route**
 - D. Combining two or more medications together**
- 7. What is the purpose of continuing professional development for pharmacy technicians?**
- A. To pass internal pharmacy evaluations**
 - B. To maintain and enhance competence and improve patient care**
 - C. To compete with other healthcare providers**
 - D. To fulfill minimal job requirements**
- 8. ADRs can often lead to which of the following?**
- A. Enhanced drug performance**
 - B. Increased hospital admissions**
 - C. Lower healthcare costs**
 - D. Better patient compliance**
- 9. Which of the following medications requires a prescription in Canada?**
- A. Levonorgestrel**
 - B. Vitamin K**
 - C. Benzoyl peroxide**
 - D. Hydrocodone**
- 10. What is a formulary in pharmacy?**
- A. A comprehensive guide for all medications**
 - B. A list of medications approved for use within a healthcare system**
 - C. A pricing list for medications**
 - D. A database for patient prescriptions**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Verifying patient identity serves what primary purpose in medication dispensing?

- A. To ensure proper billing procedures**
- B. To prevent medication errors**
- C. To streamline pharmacy operations**
- D. To collect patient feedback**

Verifying patient identity is a critical step in the medication dispensing process primarily to prevent medication errors. Ensuring that the right medication is given to the right patient is essential for patient safety and the effectiveness of therapy. Accurately identifying patients helps to confirm that prescriptions are filled correctly and that they align with the patient's medical records and history. This practice minimizes the risk of mix-ups or dispensing the wrong medication, which could lead to adverse reactions and compromised health outcomes. While other aspects such as billing, pharmacy operations, and feedback collection are important in their own ways, they do not directly address the fundamental goal of enhancing patient safety and ensuring that patients receive the correct medications.

2. Which of the following is advisable in relation to smoking and certain medications?

- A. It is recommended to smoke less**
- B. Do not smoke**
- C. Smoke only after taking medications**
- D. It does not affect medications**

Choosing not to smoke is advisable in relation to smoking and certain medications due to the negative interactions that can occur. Smoking can affect the metabolism of many medications, often leading to reduced efficacy or increased side effects. For instance, smoking induces certain enzymes in the liver (such as CYP1A2) that can speed up the breakdown of specific drugs, requiring higher doses to achieve the same therapeutic effect. This places the patient at risk for both therapeutic failure and potentially toxic levels if the dosage is not adjusted accordingly. Additionally, smoking can exacerbate conditions for which certain medications are prescribed, such as respiratory diseases and cardiovascular issues. Therefore, avoiding smoking altogether serves not only to enhance medication efficacy but also to improve overall health outcomes. It's crucial to educate patients on the importance of abstaining from smoking to ensure their medication regimens are as effective as possible, promoting better health and reducing possible complications associated with drug interactions.

3. At what age can infants start receiving the flu vaccine?

- A. 3 months
- B. 6 months**
- C. 12 months
- D. 2 years

Infants can start receiving the flu vaccine at 6 months of age because this is when they begin to have a sufficient immune response to vaccines. The flu vaccine is recommended to be given annually to protect children and adults alike from influenza, especially given the potential severity of the illness in young children. Starting the vaccine at this age helps to provide early protection during flu season, as infants younger than 6 months are particularly vulnerable and cannot receive the vaccine. Immunizing older infants helps to reduce the risk of severe complications associated with influenza. Additionally, before 6 months, infants rely on passive immunity transferred from the mother, but this is not enough to fully protect against the flu virus. This is why the age of 6 months is a crucial milestone for the initiation of the flu vaccination.

4. What is the purpose of warning labels on medication bottles?

- A. To increase marketability of the drug
- B. To ensure compliance with legal regulations
- C. To inform patients about potential side effects, drug interactions, and proper usage**
- D. To provide dosage information only

The purpose of warning labels on medication bottles is primarily to inform patients about potential side effects, drug interactions, and proper usage. These labels are crucial for ensuring patient safety through clear communication of important information. By conveying specific warnings and precautions, these labels help users understand how to take the medication correctly and what risks to be aware of, thereby enhancing adherence to therapeutic regimens and preventing adverse reactions. Providing comprehensive information on potential side effects and drug interactions empowers patients to make informed decisions in consultation with their healthcare providers. It also fosters better communication regarding their treatment plan, promoting overall health and safety. Thus, the focus of these labels is not just compliance with legal requirements or marketability, but rather the health and well-being of the patient who will be using the medication.

5. Which strategy best supports patient safety in medication administration?

- A. Prioritizing speed over accuracy
- B. Double-checking medications before administration**
- C. Relying solely on the patient's verbal instructions
- D. Reducing the number of medications prescribed

Double-checking medications before administration is a critical strategy that reinforces patient safety. This practice involves verifying the medication, the dosage, the route of administration, and the patient's identity prior to giving the drug. It helps to minimize errors that could arise from miscommunication, miscalculations, or misunderstandings, which can have serious consequences for patient health. This strategy is especially important in a healthcare environment where distractions can occur frequently, and where the consequences of medication errors can be severe, potentially leading to adverse drug reactions, ineffective treatment, or even injury. By taking the time to double-check, pharmacy technicians and other healthcare providers contribute to reducing the likelihood of mistakes, ensuring that patients receive the correct medication as intended. This systematic approach emphasizes accuracy and safety over the potentially hazardous notion of prioritizing speed in medication administration. Other strategies, while potentially beneficial in different contexts, do not offer the same level of direct protection against medication errors. For example, relying solely on the patient's verbal instructions places undue trust on patients' recall, which may not always be accurate. Prioritizing speed can lead to rushed decisions and overlooked details. Reducing the number of medications prescribed might help simplify treatment regimens, but it doesn't address the specifics of how medications are administered

6. What does "off-label" use of a medication refer to?

- A. Using a medication for a purpose approved by FDA
- B. Using a medication for a purpose other than its approved indication**
- C. Administering a medication via a different route
- D. Combining two or more medications together

"Off-label" use of a medication refers to using a medication for a purpose other than its approved indication. This means that while the medication has been formally approved by health authorities, such as the FDA, for a specific condition or set of conditions, it can also be prescribed by healthcare providers for different conditions based on professional judgment and clinical evidence. This practice is relatively common in medicine. For example, a drug approved for treating one type of cancer may be prescribed by a doctor to treat another type of cancer if there is clinical evidence supporting its efficacy for that condition, even though it hasn't undergone the formal approval process for that specific use. Such decisions are often guided by research, expert consensus, or accumulating clinical experiences. It's important to note that while off-label prescribing is legal and sometimes necessary, it may involve additional risks since the indications for use have not been rigorously vetted by regulatory bodies in the same way as the approved uses.

7. What is the purpose of continuing professional development for pharmacy technicians?

- A. To pass internal pharmacy evaluations**
- B. To maintain and enhance competence and improve patient care**
- C. To compete with other healthcare providers**
- D. To fulfill minimal job requirements**

The purpose of continuing professional development (CPD) for pharmacy technicians is fundamentally about maintaining and enhancing their competence and improving patient care. CPD encompasses a range of activities that allow pharmacy technicians to stay current with new practices, medication therapies, regulations, and technologies in the field of pharmacy. By engaging in CPD, pharmacy technicians can acquire new skills and knowledge, which directly translates to better patient outcomes. This commitment to lifelong learning ensures that they are equipped to provide the highest standard of care, adapt to advancements in the pharmacy profession, and meet the needs of patients effectively. While there may be institutional evaluations and job requirements to consider, the core intent behind CPD is centered on fostering growth and ensuring that pharmacy technicians can contribute positively to a healthcare environment that prioritizes patient safety and care. Rather than viewing CPD merely as a check-box activity, it is an integral part of professional identity and responsibility in the pharmaceutical field.

8. ADRs can often lead to which of the following?

- A. Enhanced drug performance**
- B. Increased hospital admissions**
- C. Lower healthcare costs**
- D. Better patient compliance**

Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) are unintended and harmful effects that occur as a result of medication use. When these reactions happen, they can significantly impact patient health and well-being, often necessitating further medical evaluation and treatment. Increased hospital admissions can occur because patients experiencing serious ADRs may require emergency care, hospitalization for observation, or treatment for complications arising from the reaction. This includes cases where patients experience severe allergic reactions, organ damage, or other significant health issues related to their medications. The need for additional medical attention due to ADRs directly contributes to the increase in hospitalizations, which can place a substantial burden on healthcare systems. The other options relate to positive outcomes or benefits from medication use, which does not align with the nature of ADRs. Enhanced drug performance or better patient compliance would imply that medications are working effectively and patients are following their regimens as prescribed, which is generally the opposite of the outcome when ADRs are present. Similarly, lower healthcare costs would not typically occur in the context of managing complications from ADRs; instead, the opposite is often true, as managing these complications may require additional resources and interventions.

9. Which of the following medications requires a prescription in Canada?

- A. Levonorgestrel**
- B. Vitamin K**
- C. Benzoyl peroxide**
- D. Hydrocodone**

The correct answer is hydrocodone, which requires a prescription in Canada. Hydrocodone is an opioid analgesic that is used for the treatment of severe pain. Due to its potential for abuse, dependency, and serious side effects, legislation in Canada classifies hydrocodone as a controlled substance, mandating that it can only be dispensed with a valid prescription from a licensed healthcare provider. In contrast, levonorgestrel is available over-the-counter in Canada and is used primarily for emergency contraception. Vitamin K, also not requiring a prescription, is essential for blood clotting and can be obtained in various dietary supplements and formulations without a doctor's order. Benzoyl peroxide is commonly used for treating acne and is found in many over-the-counter skincare products, reflecting its safety profile for general public use without requiring a prescription.

10. What is a formulary in pharmacy?

- A. A comprehensive guide for all medications**
- B. A list of medications approved for use within a healthcare system**
- C. A pricing list for medications**
- D. A database for patient prescriptions**

A formulary in pharmacy is specifically defined as a list of medications that have been evaluated and approved for use within a particular healthcare system, such as a hospital or insurance plan. This curated list is intended to ensure that medications used are safe, effective, and cost-efficient, reflecting the system's preferences and policies. The approval process typically involves a review of clinical evidence, cost considerations, and therapeutic alternatives to support optimal patient care. This controlled selection helps streamline prescribing practices and can aid in managing overall healthcare costs by promoting the use of preferred medications. In contrast, the other options represent different aspects of pharmaceutical or healthcare management. A comprehensive guide for all medications would imply an exhaustive catalog that is not confined to a specific healthcare system and is therefore broader than a formulary. A pricing list for medications focuses solely on cost without approval or therapeutic context, while a database for patient prescriptions pertains to individual patient records rather than a system-wide list of approved drugs.

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://pebcpharmacytech.examzify.com>

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

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