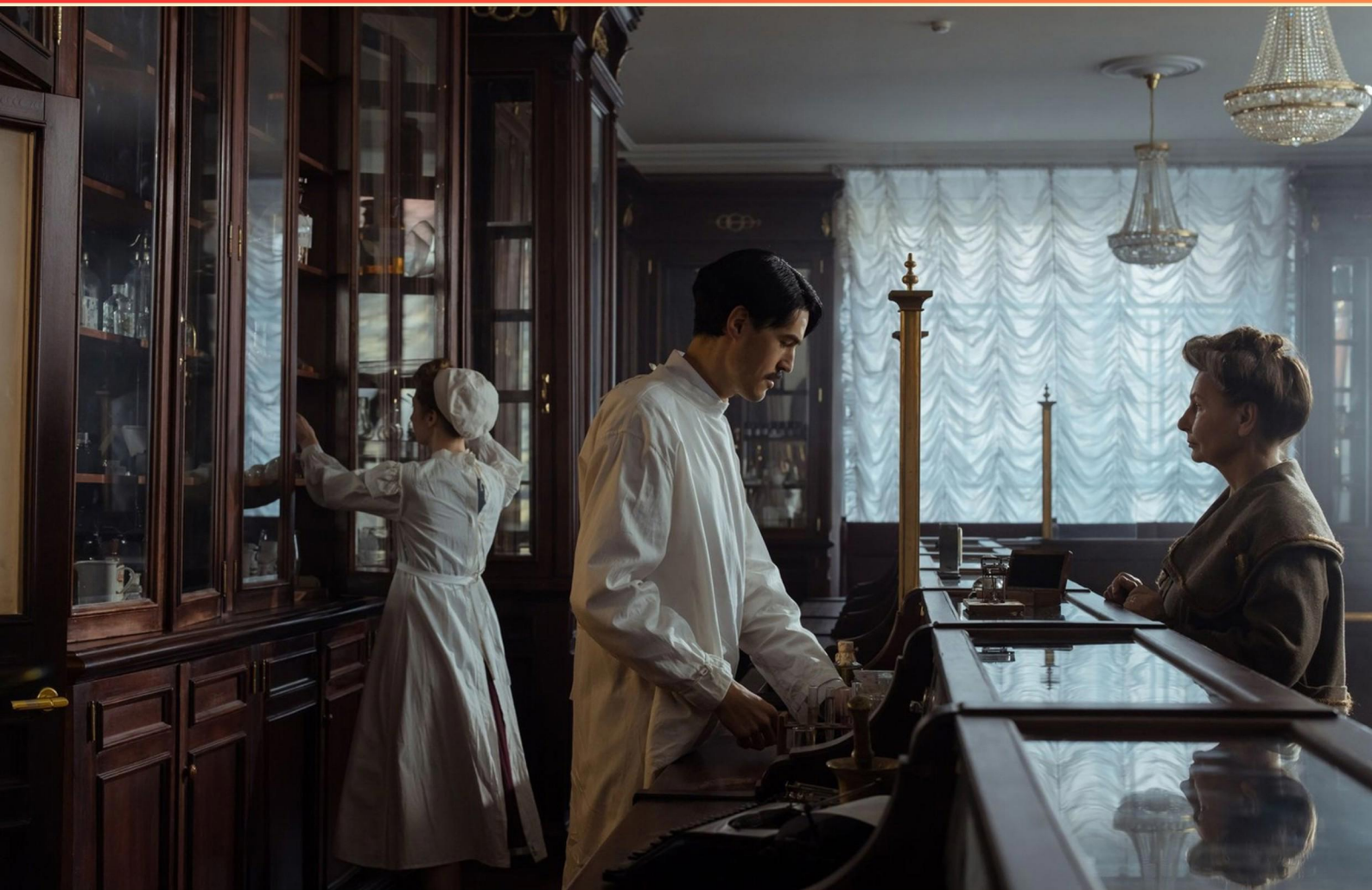


PHARMACY CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	16

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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. Pramipexole is particularly beneficial for which receptor type in the brain related to depression symptoms in Parkinson's disease?**
 - A. D2 receptors
 - B. D1 receptors
 - C. D4 receptors
 - D. D3 receptors

- 2. How long should a patient expect to wait to see a response from pimavanserin in controlling hallucinations?**
 - A. Within 1 week
 - B. Within 2 weeks
 - C. Within 3-4 weeks
 - D. Within 4-6 weeks

- 3. Which immune function is decreased with aging?**
 - A. Adaptive immune stimulation
 - B. Memory T cells
 - C. Memory B cells
 - D. Macrophage activity

- 4. What indicates a patient's bone health if their Z-score is +0.2?**
 - A. She has excellent bone health.
 - B. She has osteopenia.
 - C. She has osteoporosis.
 - D. She has bone health similar to others her age.

- 5. Which preservative-free treatment is appropriate for a patient experiencing dry eye symptoms?**
 - A. Benzalkonium chloride 0.5% eye drops
 - B. Loteprednol etabonate 0.25% eye drops
 - C. Preservative-free carboxymethylcellulose 0.5% eye drops
 - D. Carboxymethylcellulose 1% eye drops

- 6. What does SMARCB1 encode that is relevant in cancer development?**
- A. EZH2
 - B. INI1
 - C. Hedgehog pathway
 - D. Apoptosis
- 7. Which of the following complications is closely associated with severe COVID-19?**
- A. Pneumonia
 - B. Diabetes mellitus
 - C. Cardiac arrhythmias
 - D. Neurological disorders
- 8. What does a Z-score assess in patients regarding bone health?**
- A. Comparison to age-matched norms
 - B. Absence of osteoporosis
 - C. Overall health status
 - D. BMD standardization
- 9. What does ACOG recommend for all women who are pregnant or postpartum during the influenza season?**
- A. Not receive an influenza vaccine
 - B. Receive a lower-dose vaccine
 - C. Get vaccinated 1 month after delivery
 - D. Receive a vaccine as soon as it is available
- 10. Which medication, used for motor symptoms, might also help MJ with her depression?**
- A. Rasagiline
 - B. Ropinirole
 - C. Pramipexole
 - D. Rotigotine

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Pramipexole is particularly beneficial for which receptor type in the brain related to depression symptoms in Parkinson's disease?

- A. D2 receptors
- B. D1 receptors
- C. D4 receptors
- D. D3 receptors**

Pramipexole is primarily a selective agonist for the D2 and D3 dopamine receptors. Its particular benefit in addressing depression symptoms in patients with Parkinson's disease is closely linked to the D3 receptors. D3 receptors are found predominantly in the mesolimbic pathway, which is associated with the regulation of mood, motivation, and reward. This pathway's enhancement through D3 receptor activity helps alleviate the depressive symptoms that can occur in Parkinson's disease patients. Research has indicated that targeting D3 receptors can lead to improvements in mood and potential anxiolytic effects, making pramipexole a useful agent in managing these aspects of Parkinson's disease. The efficacy of pramipexole in treating depressive symptoms is likely due to its capacity to stimulate these receptors, which play a critical role in the dopaminergic regulation of emotional and mental well-being.

2. How long should a patient expect to wait to see a response from pimavanserin in controlling hallucinations?

- A. Within 1 week
- B. Within 2 weeks
- C. Within 3-4 weeks
- D. Within 4-6 weeks**

Pimavanserin is an antipsychotic specifically approved for the treatment of hallucinations and delusions associated with Parkinson's disease psychosis. Clinical studies indicate that patients may experience an initial response within the first few weeks of treatment; however, the average time to see a more definitive response typically falls within the range of 4 to 6 weeks. This timeline accounts for the gradual onset of effectiveness, which is common with many psychotropic medications due to the need for sufficient drug levels to accumulate and exert pharmacological effects. Thus, patients are often advised to allow this time frame before assessing the full effectiveness of the medication in controlling their symptoms. In contrast, shorter timelines such as 1 week, 2 weeks, or even 3-4 weeks may not provide an adequate window for the medication to reach its full therapeutic potential. It is critical for both healthcare providers and patients to understand that patience is often required when managing psychotic symptoms with medications like pimavanserin.

3. Which immune function is decreased with aging?

A. Adaptive immune stimulation

B. Memory T cells

C. Memory B cells

D. Macrophage activity

The correct answer pertains to the decline of adaptive immune stimulation with aging. As individuals grow older, the immune system experiences a general decline in its ability to mount effective responses to new pathogens and vaccines, which is primarily due to changes in T cell function and the reduced production of new T cells by the thymus. This decline leads to a less robust adaptive immune response, making it more challenging for older adults to defend against infections or respond adequately to vaccinations. In contrast, while memory T cells and memory B cells can also show changes with age, they do not necessarily decrease in function or quantity to the same extent as the overall adaptive immune stimulation. In fact, some studies suggest that memory B cells may even persist for longer periods, providing a degree of immunity from previous infections. Macrophage activity can also be affected with aging, but this typically focuses more on innate immunity rather than the specific adaptive responses that are crucial for long-term immunity. Thus, the decline in adaptive immune stimulation most accurately reflects the age-related immune changes.

4. What indicates a patient's bone health if their Z-score is +0.2?

A. She has excellent bone health.

B. She has osteopenia.

C. She has osteoporosis.

D. She has bone health similar to others her age.

A Z-score is a statistical measurement that compares an individual's bone density to the average bone density of a population that is similar in age, race, and gender. A Z-score of +0.2 indicates that the patient's bone density is slightly above the average for their age group, but not significantly so. This means that the patient's bone health is relatively typical when compared to others in the same demographic. A Z-score around zero suggests bone density that is average, while values above zero indicate better than average bone density. Conversely, values below zero would suggest lower bone density, with more negative values indicating more severe reductions in bone density. In this case, the best conclusion is that the patient's bone health is similar to that of others their age, reflecting a normative bone density level rather than indicating any specific conditions like osteopenia or osteoporosis, which typically coincide with negative Z-scores.

5. Which preservative-free treatment is appropriate for a patient experiencing dry eye symptoms?

A. Benzalkonium chloride 0.5% eye drops

B. Loteprednol etabonate 0.25% eye drops

C. Preservative-free carboxymethylcellulose 0.5% eye drops

D. Carboxymethylcellulose 1% eye drops

The choice of preservative-free carboxymethylcellulose 0.5% eye drops is appropriate for a patient experiencing dry eye symptoms because carboxymethylcellulose acts as a lubricant, providing moisture and relief to the surface of the eye. This formulation is designed specifically to alleviate dryness without the potential irritation that preservatives might cause, making it suitable for patients who are sensitive to preservatives or who require frequent dosing throughout the day. By using a preservative-free option, patients can avoid the risk of further irritation or toxicity that can arise from exposure to preservatives like benzalkonium chloride, which while effective at preventing microbial growth, can also be harsh on the eye, especially in chronic use or in sensitive eyes. Therefore, the choice of preservative-free products in dry eye treatment aligns with best practices aimed at enhancing patient comfort and minimizing side effects.

6. What does SMARCB1 encode that is relevant in cancer development?

- A. EZH2
- B. INI1**
- C. Hedgehog pathway
- D. Apoptosis

SMARCB1 encodes a protein known as INI1 (also referred to as BAF47), which is a key component of the SWI/SNF chromatin remodeling complex. This complex plays a vital role in regulating gene expression by modifying chromatin structure, thus influencing DNA accessibility and transcription. Mutations or deletions in the SMARCB1 gene are linked to various cancers, including atypical teratoid rhabdoid tumors (ATRT) and other malignant tumors, particularly in pediatric populations. The loss of INI1 function can lead to uncontrolled cellular proliferation and a failure of differentiation, which are hallmark processes in cancer development. This makes INI1 a significant factor in tumorigenesis when SMARCB1 is altered. The other options mentioned do not directly relate to SMARCB1. EZH2 is a key component of the polycomb repressive complex and is involved in histone methylation, while the Hedgehog pathway and apoptosis are related to cellular signaling and programmed cell death, respectively, but do not directly involve the gene or protein product encoded by SMARCB1. Thus, the significance of INI1 in cancer development clearly highlights the relevance of SMARCB1's function in tumor biology.

7. Which of the following complications is closely associated with severe COVID-19?

- A. Pneumonia**
- B. Diabetes mellitus
- C. Cardiac arrhythmias
- D. Neurological disorders

Severe COVID-19 is particularly associated with pneumonia due to the virus's primary impact on the respiratory system. COVID-19 can lead to acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and significant inflammation in the lungs, resulting in pneumonia, which is an infection or inflammation of the lung tissue. This condition complicates the disease progression and often requires medical intervention such as supplemental oxygen or mechanical ventilation. While diabetes mellitus, cardiac arrhythmias, and neurological disorders can occur due to various health interactions with COVID-19, such associations are typically seen as secondary complications or outcomes rather than direct consequences of the primary viral infection. In contrast, pneumonia is a direct manifestation of the respiratory impairments caused by the virus, making it the most closely associated complication with severe cases of COVID-19.

8. What does a Z-score assess in patients regarding bone health?

A. Comparison to age-matched norms

B. Absence of osteoporosis

C. Overall health status

D. BMD standardization

A Z-score assesses how an individual's bone mineral density (BMD) compares to age-matched norms. This score is particularly useful because it helps to evaluate whether a patient's bone density is within the range expected for their age group, allowing for more tailored assessments of bone health. Specifically, it provides information about how much higher or lower a person's BMD is in relation to an average population of the same age and sex, thus indicating possible risk for conditions like osteoporosis. The Z-score is integral in determining whether the bone density loss is due to aging or other health factors that differ from the norm for a specific age group. This demographic-centric approach is valuable in clinical practice, guiding decisions for further diagnostic examinations or therapeutic interventions. Other assessments mentioned, such as the absence of osteoporosis or overall health status, do not specifically relate to the comparative statistical measure that a Z-score represents. Similarly, while BMD standardization is relevant, it does not capture the concept of age-comparative evaluation that the Z-score emphasizes.

9. What does ACOG recommend for all women who are pregnant or postpartum during the influenza season?

A. Not receive an influenza vaccine

B. Receive a lower-dose vaccine

C. Get vaccinated 1 month after delivery

D. Receive a vaccine as soon as it is available

The recommendation from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) for pregnant or postpartum women during the influenza season emphasizes the importance of vaccination. When a vaccine becomes available, it is strongly advised that these women receive it promptly. Pregnant and postpartum individuals are at a higher risk for severe complications from influenza, making vaccination crucial for their safety and the health of their newborns. Vaccination during pregnancy not only helps protect the mother from influenza but also provides passive immunity to the newborn, as antibodies can be transferred across the placenta. This approach is vital since infants cannot receive the influenza vaccine themselves until they reach a certain age. Delaying vaccination until a month after delivery or opting for a lower-dose vaccine is not recommended because it misses the opportunity to provide early protection during the influenza season. Furthermore, not receiving the vaccine at all leaves both the mother and baby vulnerable to potential severe illness caused by influenza. The evidence supporting vaccination during pregnancy is well established, reinforcing the idea that timely vaccination is the best practice during influenza season for these populations.

10. Which medication, used for motor symptoms, might also help MJ with her depression?

- A. Rasagiline
- B. Ropinirole
- C. Pramipexole**
- D. Rotigotine

Pramipexole is a dopamine agonist commonly used to treat the motor symptoms of Parkinson's disease, such as tremors, stiffness, and bradykinesia. In addition to its effectiveness in managing these motor symptoms, pramipexole has been found to have antidepressant properties. This dual action is particularly beneficial for patients like MJ, who may experience depression as a comorbidity of their motor condition. Pramipexole's ability to stimulate dopamine receptors contributes not only to alleviating motor deficits but also to improving mood and alleviating symptoms of depression. This can enhance the overall quality of life for patients by addressing both their physical and emotional wellbeing. While other medications like Rasagiline, Ropinirole, and Rotigotine are also used to manage motor symptoms associated with Parkinson's disease, pramipexole stands out for its additional impact on mood, making it particularly relevant for someone also struggling with depressive symptoms.

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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://pharmacyce.examzify.com>

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

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