

Pharmacy Technician Certification Board Practice Exam (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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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

- 1. Which form is required to order schedule II controlled substances?**
 - A. DEA form 106**
 - B. DEA form 222**
 - C. The same form used to order noncontrolled medications**
 - D. DEA form 224**
- 2. Which medication is considered a high-alert medication?**
 - A. Methotrexate**
 - B. Esomeprazole**
 - C. Polyethylene glycol**
 - D. Docusate**
- 3. Which of the following medications is typically not refrigerated?**
 - A. Insulin**
 - B. EpiPen**
 - C. Pneumococcal vaccine**
 - D. Live attenuated vaccines**
- 4. What information must be included on a controlled drug prescription that is not required for non-controlled drugs?**
 - A. The prescriber's DEA number**
 - B. The prescriber's written or electronic signature**
 - C. The date the prescription was issued or written**
 - D. The total quantity of medication prescribed**
- 5. Which of the following adverse reactions events is it MOST important for the pharmacy to report to the FDA's MedWatch program?**
 - A. A patient experiences a rash after taking oral penicillin**
 - B. A patient fails to rinse their mouth after using their inhaler, resulting in oral thrush**
 - C. A patient taking ticagrelor (Brillinta) has a severe epidural hemorrhage that causes him to be hospitalized**
 - D. A patient on a daily aspirin regimen receives a mild bruise after hitting their hand on a corner of their desk**

- 6. How is "aerosol" medication typically administered?**
- A. Orally**
 - B. By injection**
 - C. Topically**
 - D. By inhalation**
- 7. What should a pharmacy technician know about drug interactions?**
- A. Medications do not interact with each other**
 - B. Medications can interact, affecting efficacy and safety**
 - C. Drug interactions only occur with over-the-counter medications**
 - D. Interactions are only significant with high-alert medications**
- 8. Why is it important for pharmacy technicians to understand medication interactions?**
- A. To determine pharmacy layout**
 - B. To consult with medical doctors**
 - C. To ensure safety and efficacy of treatments**
 - D. To increase sales**
- 9. Which of the following side effects is commonly associated with antidepressants?**
- A. Increased appetite**
 - B. Insomnia**
 - C. Excessive sweating**
 - D. Weight loss**
- 10. A patient's prescription instructs the administration of one ounce of solution per dose. How many milliliters should be measured for each dose?**
- A. 5 mL**
 - B. 10 mL**
 - C. 30 mL**
 - D. 65 mL**

Answers

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

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Explanations

1. Which form is required to order schedule II controlled substances?

A. DEA form 106

B. DEA form 222

C. The same form used to order noncontrolled medications

D. DEA form 224

To order Schedule II controlled substances, the correct form is DEA form 222. This specific form is designed for the ordering and transferring of Schedule I and II controlled substances and is a critical component of the legal framework regulating controlled substances. The reason for the specific requirement of DEA form 222 lies in the high potential for abuse and the strict regulations surrounding Schedule II drugs. By utilizing this dedicated form, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) can maintain tighter control and monitoring of these substances throughout the distribution process. Other forms mentioned serve different purposes; for example, DEA form 106 is used to report the theft or loss of controlled substances, while DEA form 224 is necessary for registering a pharmacy to dispense controlled substances. The same form used to order noncontrolled medications is not sufficient for Schedule II drugs, highlighting the unique regulatory requirements for these higher-risk substances.

2. Which medication is considered a high-alert medication?

A. Methotrexate

B. Esomeprazole

C. Polyethylene glycol

D. Docusate

Methotrexate is classified as a high-alert medication due to its potential for causing significant harm if used incorrectly. It is an antineoplastic agent commonly utilized in the treatment of various cancers and autoimmune diseases. The dosing of methotrexate requires careful monitoring and precise calculation, as both underdosing and overdosing can have severe consequences for patient health. For example, an overdose can lead to severe toxicity, potentially resulting in life-threatening conditions such as bone marrow suppression, liver damage, or pulmonary toxicity. High-alert medications are recognized for their increased risk of causing injury when used inappropriately, and the management of these medications necessitates heightened awareness and specific protocols within pharmacies and healthcare settings. This includes procedures for double-checking orders, ensuring proper handling and storage, and counseling patients about potential side effects and the importance of adherence to prescribed regimens. In contrast, esomeprazole, polyethylene glycol, and docusate do not carry the same high risks of serious harm when inadvertently mismanaged, which distinguishes methotrexate as a high-alert medication.

3. Which of the following medications is typically not refrigerated?

A. Insulin

B. EpiPen

C. Pneumococcal vaccine

D. Live attenuated vaccines

The EpiPen, which contains epinephrine, is typically not required to be refrigerated. It can be stored at room temperature, although it should be protected from light and extreme temperatures. Storing it properly ensures that the medication remains effective when needed in emergencies, such as treating severe allergic reactions. Insulin is often recommended to be stored in the refrigerator, especially until it is opened, but can be kept at room temperature for a limited time once in use. Similarly, pneumococcal vaccines require refrigeration to maintain their efficacy. Live attenuated vaccines also need to be refrigerated to preserve their effectiveness, as they are sensitive to temperature changes. Thus, the EpiPen's ability to be stored at room temperature makes it the exception among the listed medications.

4. What information must be included on a controlled drug prescription that is not required for non-controlled drugs?

A. The prescriber's DEA number

B. The prescriber's written or electronic signature

C. The date the prescription was issued or written

D. The total quantity of medication prescribed

The prescriber's DEA number is a crucial piece of information that must be included on a controlled drug prescription, distinguishing it from non-controlled drug prescriptions. This requirement stems from the need to regulate and monitor the prescribing of controlled substances to prevent misuse and abuse. The DEA number uniquely identifies the prescriber and ensures they are authorized to prescribe medications that fall under various schedules of controlled substances, as defined by law. Non-controlled drug prescriptions do not require a DEA number because they typically do not carry the same potential for abuse or dependence as controlled substances. Therefore, the absence of this requirement for non-controlled drugs reflects the difference in regulatory oversight between the two categories of medications. This ensures safety and adherence to laws governing controlled substances while streamlining the process for prescribing non-controlled medications.

5. Which of the following adverse reactions events is it MOST important for the pharmacy to report to the FDA's MedWatch program?

- A. A patient experiences a rash after taking oral penicillin**
- B. A patient fails to rinse their mouth after using their inhaler, resulting in oral thrush**
- C. A patient taking ticagrelor (Brillinta) has a severe epidural hemorrhage that causes him to be hospitalized**
- D. A patient on a daily aspirin regimen receives a mild bruise after hitting their hand on a corner of their desk**

The situation involving the patient taking ticagrelor who experienced a severe epidural hemorrhage is crucial to report to the FDA's MedWatch program because it highlights a serious and potentially life-threatening adverse reaction associated with the medication. MedWatch is designed to monitor and promote drug safety, and reporting significant adverse events helps to inform the FDA about the safety profile of medications. In this context, ticagrelor is an anticoagulant, and its therapeutic use carries a known risk of bleeding complications. A severe epidural hemorrhage indicates a significant health risk and suggests the need for closer scrutiny of the drug's safety, risk mitigation strategies, or label changes. Reporting such serious events is essential not only for patient safety but also for enhancing collective clinical knowledge and informing prescriber practices regarding the medication. In contrast, the other scenarios involve less severe reactions or outcomes, which do not necessitate the same level of urgency in reporting. A mild rash or a bruise does not typically require notification to the FDA, as they are common adverse effects that are generally known and typically managed without extensive intervention. Thus, the severe nature of the hemorrhage in the case of ticagrelor distinguishes it as the priority event to report.

6. How is "aerosol" medication typically administered?

- A. Orally**
- B. By injection**
- C. Topically**
- D. By inhalation**

Aerosol medication is typically administered by inhalation, which allows for the medication to be delivered directly to the lungs. This method maximizes the drug's efficacy for respiratory conditions, as inhalation can provide rapid absorption into the bloodstream and targeted action in the airways. Aerosol products often include inhalers or nebulizers that produce a fine mist or spray, enabling patients to inhale the medication easily. This route is particularly beneficial for delivering medications for conditions such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and other respiratory ailments, where localized therapy in the respiratory tract is essential for managing symptoms effectively.

7. What should a pharmacy technician know about drug interactions?

- A. Medications do not interact with each other**
- B. Medications can interact, affecting efficacy and safety**
- C. Drug interactions only occur with over-the-counter medications**
- D. Interactions are only significant with high-alert medications**

A pharmacy technician should understand that medications can interact with each other, which can significantly affect both efficacy and safety. Drug interactions occur when one medication alters the effects of another, potentially leading to increased side effects, reduced therapeutic effects, or unforeseen adverse reactions. This knowledge is crucial for ensuring patient safety and effective therapy management. Recognizing that drug interactions can happen across different categories of medications—prescription, over-the-counter, and even herbal supplements—underscores the importance of comprehensive medication reviews by pharmacy professionals. This understanding helps pharmacy technicians communicate effectively with pharmacists and healthcare providers about potential interactions, ensuring that patients receive safe and effective medications tailored to their specific health needs. By appreciating the complexity of drug interactions and their potential impact on treatment outcomes, pharmacy technicians can contribute to reducing medication errors and enhancing patient care.

8. Why is it important for pharmacy technicians to understand medication interactions?

- A. To determine pharmacy layout**
- B. To consult with medical doctors**
- C. To ensure safety and efficacy of treatments**
- D. To increase sales**

Understanding medication interactions is crucial for pharmacy technicians because it directly impacts patient safety and the efficacy of treatments. When patients are prescribed multiple medications, there is a risk that some of those medications may interact negatively, leading to harmful side effects or reduced therapeutic effects. Pharmacy technicians play a key role in identifying potential interactions and consulting with pharmacists or healthcare providers to resolve these issues. By having a strong grasp of how different drugs interact with each other, technicians can help ensure that patients receive the most effective treatment without unnecessary risks. This understanding is essential for the preparation and dispensing of medications, as well as for educating patients about potential side effects or necessary lifestyle adjustments when starting a new medication regimen. Ultimately, this knowledge supports better health outcomes and enhances the overall quality of care provided to patients.

9. Which of the following side effects is commonly associated with antidepressants?

A. Increased appetite

B. Insomnia

C. Excessive sweating

D. Weight loss

Increased appetite is a commonly noted side effect of many antidepressants, particularly those in the class of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and certain tricyclic antidepressants. These medications can affect neurotransmitters that regulate mood and appetite, often leading to an increased tendency to gain weight as individuals may find themselves feeling hungrier and craving more food. This side effect is especially significant in the context of patient care, as it can influence medication adherence and long-term management of depression. Patients may become discouraged or experience stigma if weight gain occurs, particularly when antidepressants are prescribed to improve overall well-being. Recognizing that increased appetite can be a component of treatment helps healthcare providers better prepare patients for potential changes in their weight and inform them about healthy lifestyle strategies to mitigate this effect. Other side effects, like insomnia, excessive sweating, and weight loss, can also occur with certain antidepressants but are less universally recognized or typically associated with the broader category of antidepressants as increased appetite is. This makes it an important point of focus when discussing potential effects of medication with patients.

10. A patient's prescription instructs the administration of one ounce of solution per dose. How many milliliters should be measured for each dose?

A. 5 mL

B. 10 mL

C. 30 mL

D. 65 mL

To determine how many milliliters correspond to one ounce of solution, it's essential to know the conversion between ounces and milliliters. One ounce is equivalent to approximately 29.57 milliliters. For practical purposes in a pharmacy setting, this is often rounded to 30 milliliters when calculating dosages. Thus, when a prescription indicates one ounce per dose, the correct measurement of solution to administer is 30 milliliters. This understanding of the conversion factors is crucial for accurately dispensing medications and ensuring patient safety. The other options do not reflect the correct conversion from ounces to milliliters, as they either underestimate or overestimate the amount needed for one ounce.

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://pharmacytechniciancertificationboard.examzify.com>

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