

Pharmacy Technician Certification Board Practice Exam (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. 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**
- 2. Why are certain medications packaged in opaque containers?**
 - A. To enhance consumer appeal**
 - B. To protect from chemical reactions**
 - C. To prevent theft**
 - D. To guard against light degradation**
- 3. What is the main objective of a medication reconciliation process?**
 - A. To inventory medications**
 - B. To ensure the accuracy of medication lists and prevent medication errors**
 - C. To educate patients on their medications**
 - D. To simplify pharmacy management tasks**
- 4. Which of the following medications has a narrow therapeutic index?**
 - A. Xarelto**
 - B. Phenytoin**
 - C. Fluoxetine**
 - D. Lisinopril**
- 5. What information must be included on a prescription before it can be filled?**
 - A. Pharmacy technician's name**
 - B. Patient's date of birth and insurance information**
 - C. Physician's signature and medication dosage**
 - D. Only the medication name**

6. Which of the following regulations pertains specifically to medication safety in pharmacy practice?

- A. FDA Regulations**
- B. DEA Regulations**
- C. USP Standards**
- D. HIPAA Privacy Rules**

7. All of the following codeine solutions would be classified as a schedule V controlled substance EXCEPT?

- A. A solution containing 6.25 mg promethazine and 10 mg codeine per 5mL**
- B. A solution containing 20 mg dextromethorphan and 50 mg codeine per 20 mL**
- C. A solution containing 100 mg guaifenesin and 10 mg codeine per 5 mL**
- D. A solution containing 24 mg chlorpheniramine and 30 mg codeine per 1.5 mL**

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

- A. Insulin**
- B. EpiPen**
- C. Pneumococcal vaccine**
- D. Live attenuated vaccines**

9. Which side effect is commonly associated with oral prednisolone use?

- A. Hypoglycemia**
- B. Weight loss**
- C. Increased risk of infection**
- D. Fluid loss**

10. What does an adverse drug reaction signify?

- A. An unintended and harmful reaction to a medication**
- B. A desired therapeutic effect from a medication**
- C. A common side effect of a drug**
- D. A precautionary measure for drug administration**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. 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.

2. Why are certain medications packaged in opaque containers?

- A. To enhance consumer appeal**
- B. To protect from chemical reactions**
- C. To prevent theft**
- D. To guard against light degradation**

Certain medications are packaged in opaque containers to guard against light degradation. Many pharmaceuticals can be sensitive to light exposure, which can lead to photodegradation. This process can alter the medication's effectiveness, stability, and safety, potentially causing a decrease in potency or the formation of harmful degradation products. Opaque packaging serves as a barrier, preventing light from penetrating and thereby helping to preserve the integrity of the medication over time. In this context, while some medications may indeed be packaged to enhance consumer appeal or to prevent theft, these factors do not directly relate to the fundamental reasons for safeguarding medication integrity. Protecting from chemical reactions can occur through other means, such as specific formulations or inert packaging materials, but light degradation specifically necessitates the use of opaque containers.

3. What is the main objective of a medication reconciliation process?

- A. To inventory medications
- B. To ensure the accuracy of medication lists and prevent medication errors**
- C. To educate patients on their medications
- D. To simplify pharmacy management tasks

The main objective of a medication reconciliation process is to ensure the accuracy of medication lists and prevent medication errors. This process involves comparing a patient's current medication orders with all medications that the patient has been taking, including prescription medications, over-the-counter drugs, herbal supplements, and any other substances. By accurately reconciling medications, healthcare providers can identify discrepancies such as missed doses, omitted medications, or potential drug interactions. This is particularly crucial during transitions of care, such as when a patient is admitted to the hospital, discharged, or transferred between different levels of care. The goal is to enhance patient safety, reduce the risk of adverse drug events, and improve overall healthcare outcomes by ensuring that patients receive the correct medications in the right dosages at the right times. While inventory management, patient education, and pharmacy management are important aspects of pharmacy practice, they are not the central focus of the medication reconciliation process. The priority is safeguarding the patient's medication regimen and ensuring comprehensive and accurate pharmaceutical care.

4. Which of the following medications has a narrow therapeutic index?

- A. Xarelto
- B. Phenytoin**
- C. Fluoxetine
- D. Lisinopril

Phenytoin is considered to have a narrow therapeutic index because the range between its effective dose and toxic dose is quite small. For medications with a narrow therapeutic index, monitoring of drug levels is critical to ensure that the dosage stays within the therapeutic range. This close margin means that small changes in the dose can lead to efficacy or toxicity, making it vital for healthcare providers to regularly monitor the patient's drug levels, as well as their clinical response and side effects. In contrast, the other medications listed have a wider therapeutic index, meaning that there is a larger range of dosages that can be safely taken without leading to toxicity or ineffective treatment. Therefore, while all medications should be managed carefully, the specific characteristics of phenytoin necessitate more stringent monitoring and dosage adjustments to avoid adverse effects and ensure therapeutic effectiveness.

5. What information must be included on a prescription before it can be filled?

- A. Pharmacy technician's name**
- B. Patient's date of birth and insurance information**
- C. Physician's signature and medication dosage**
- D. Only the medication name**

For a prescription to be valid and able to be filled, it must include critical elements that ensure its legality and clarity. One of the fundamental requirements is the physician's signature, which serves as verification that a licensed prescriber has authorized the medication for the patient. This signature is essential to confirm that the prescription is legitimate and can be processed by the pharmacy. Additionally, the medication dosage is a vital part of the prescription because it specifies how much of the medication should be administered. This information is crucial for patient safety, ensuring that patients receive the correct amount of medication and reducing the risk of errors related to dosing. Including both the physician's signature and the medication dosage meets the legal standards of prescription writing and ensures that pharmacists have all the necessary information to fill the prescription correctly.

6. Which of the following regulations pertains specifically to medication safety in pharmacy practice?

- A. FDA Regulations**
- B. DEA Regulations**
- C. USP Standards**
- D. HIPAA Privacy Rules**

The correct choice is the USP Standards, which specifically focus on medication safety in pharmacy practice. The United States Pharmacopeia (USP) establishes recognized standards for medicines, their production, and their quality. These standards are critical in ensuring that medications are safe, effective, and of high quality. For example, USP guidelines may include stipulations regarding acceptable levels of contamination in pharmaceuticals, proper labeling practices, and specific compounding procedures that reduce the risk of medication errors. The standards are designed to prevent unsafe practices that could lead to harm for patients, making them a fundamental aspect of medication safety in pharmacies. In contrast, FDA Regulations typically oversee the approval and general safety of drugs before they reach the market but do not specifically govern how medications are handled within pharmacy practice. DEA Regulations focus on the control of substances that have a potential for abuse, mainly revolving around the manufacturing and distribution aspects rather than the safety of medications from a usage perspective in pharmacies. HIPAA Privacy Rules are concerned with patient confidentiality and the protection of health information, which while important, do not directly address medication safety in practice.

7. All of the following codeine solutions would be classified as a schedule V controlled substance EXCEPT?

- A. A solution containing 6.25 mg promethazine and 10 mg codeine per 5mL**
- B. A solution containing 20 mg dextromethorphan and 50 mg codeine per 20 mL**
- C. A solution containing 100 mg guaifenesin and 10 mg codeine per 5 mL**
- D. A solution containing 24 mg chlorpheniramine and 30 mg codeine per 1.5 mL**

In the context of controlled substances, the classification of codeine solutions depends on their concentration and the presence of other active ingredients. Schedule V controlled substances are those that typically have a lower potential for abuse relative to other controlled substances and are often used for medicinal purposes, including certain cough preparations that contain codeine in limited quantities. The specific solution that is not classified as a Schedule V controlled substance is the one containing 20 mg dextromethorphan and 50 mg codeine per 20 mL. This solution exceeds the permissible concentration limits for codeine to be classified as Schedule V. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) regulations, a solution is usually classified as Schedule V if it contains no more than 200 mg of codeine per 100 mL or per 100 dosage units. In contrast, the other solutions listed contain codeine concentrations that are lower or fall within the acceptable limits for listing as Schedule V substances. For example, the solution with 10 mg of codeine per 5 mL or the one with 10 mg of codeine per 5 mL allows it to remain within the parameters set for Schedule V classifications. Understanding these regulations is crucial for pharmacy technicians as they play an essential role

8. 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.

9. Which side effect is commonly associated with oral prednisolone use?

- A. Hypoglycemia**
- B. Weight loss**
- C. Increased risk of infection**
- D. Fluid loss**

Oral prednisolone, a corticosteroid, is often used to suppress inflammation and modify the immune response in various conditions. One of the notable side effects associated with its use is an increased risk of infection. This occurs because corticosteroids can modulate the immune system by reducing the number of circulating white blood cells and impairing the function of immune cells. As a result, patients on prednisolone may be more susceptible to infections, including bacterial, viral, and fungal, as their body's ability to respond effectively is diminished. Other potential side effects include weight gain, fluid retention, and hyperglycemia; however, the specific side effect of increased risk of infection stands out as a critical concern that healthcare providers must monitor in patients taking this medication. Thus, recognizing the increased risk of infection as a side effect is essential for appropriate patient care and management.

10. What does an adverse drug reaction signify?

- A. An unintended and harmful reaction to a medication**
- B. A desired therapeutic effect from a medication**
- C. A common side effect of a drug**
- D. A precautionary measure for drug administration**

An adverse drug reaction signifies an unintended and harmful reaction to a medication. This is an essential concept in pharmacology and patient safety. Adverse drug reactions can range in severity from mild to life-threatening and can occur after the first dose or after prolonged exposure to the medication. Understanding this definition is crucial for healthcare professionals, including pharmacy technicians, as it allows for monitoring and reporting of adverse reactions to ensure patient safety and effective medication use. Recognizing an adverse drug reaction is vital for making informed decisions about therapy adjustments, alternative medications, and patient counseling. The other concepts, while they relate to medication use, do not fit the definition of an adverse drug reaction. For example, a desired therapeutic effect refers specifically to the intended benefits of a medication. A common side effect, although it may indicate a reaction to a drug, does not necessarily imply harmfulness; some side effects may be expected and manageable. A precautionary measure is a guideline to prevent potential issues, but it does not define an outcome related to medication reactions.

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!

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