Pharmacy Technician Law and Safety Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

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Questions

1. Which act required that drugs be safe for humans and also effective?

A. Pure Food and Drug Act

B. Durham-Humphrey Amendment

C. Kefauver-Harris Amendment

D. Orphan Drug Act

2. When handling hazardous substances, what is essential for pharmacy technicians to wear?

A. Regular attire

B. Protective clothing and gloves

C. Comfortable shoes

D. Common laboratory attire

3. In what situation should a pharmacy technician refuse to fill a prescription?

A. When the prescription is too expensive

B. When there is a suspicion of drug abuse or misuse

C. When the patient is rude

D. When the medication is backordered

4. Which of the following would be considered a serious labeling issue for a drug?

A. Expiration date missing

B. Color of the container

C. Shape of the tablets

D. Size of the box

5. What is one of the key label requirements for a prescription bottle?

A. Prescriber’s email address

B. Patient's insurance information

C. Drug name and strength

D. Pharmacy’s promotional message

6. What is the maximum number of refills allowed for a Schedule II controlled substance?

- **A. One refill allowed**
- **B. No refills allowed; a new prescription is required**
- **C. Two refills allowed**
- **D. Three refills allowed**

7. What requirement is specified by the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970?

- **A. All medications must be offered without a prescription**
- **B. OTC and legend drugs must be packaged in child-resistant containers**
- **C. Pharmacies must offer medication counseling**
- **D. All drugs must list their side effects prominently**

8. What is considered a legend drug?

- **A. A drug that can be sold over the counter**
- **B. A prescription-required medication**
- **C. A drug that has no side effects**
- **D. A medication that is not regulated**

9. What actions should be taken if a medication error occurs?

- **A. Report the error and document the incident per pharmacy policy**
- **B. Ignore the error if no harm is done**
- **C. Discuss it with the patient directly**
- **D. Notify only the pharmacist on duty**

10. The primary focus of the Drug Price Competition and Patent-Term Restoration Act is to promote what?

- **A. Generic drug price increases**
- **B. Streamlined development of new drugs**
- **C. Increased public access to herbal products**
- **D. The reduction of pharmacy operational costs**

Answers

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

Explanations

1. Which act required that drugs be safe for humans and also effective?

A. Pure Food and Drug Act

B. Durham-Humphrey Amendment

C. Kefauver-Harris Amendment

D. Orphan Drug Act

The Kefauver-Harris Amendment is the correct choice because it was enacted in 1962 and specifically mandated that all new drugs must not only be proven safe for human use but also effective for their intended purposes. This legislation was significant in response to the thalidomide tragedy, where a drug caused severe birth defects due to its inadequately tested safety and efficacy. This amendment strengthened the regulatory framework of the FDA, ensuring that rigorous testing and clinical trials were required to demonstrate both safety and effectiveness before a drug could be marketed. It marked an important shift in pharmaceutical regulation, emphasizing the responsibility of manufacturers to provide proof of efficacy alongside safety. The other options, such as the Pure Food and Drug Act, addressed the purity and quality of food and drugs but did not establish the requirement for efficacy. The Durham-Humphrey Amendment primarily focused on the distinction between prescription and over-the-counter medications, while the Orphan Drug Act encouraged the development of drugs for rare diseases but did not specifically address safety and effectiveness in the same comprehensive manner as the Kefauver-Harris Amendment.

2. When handling hazardous substances, what is essential for pharmacy technicians to wear?

A. Regular attire

B. Protective clothing and gloves

C. Comfortable shoes

D. Common laboratory attire

When handling hazardous substances, it is essential for pharmacy technicians to wear protective clothing and gloves to ensure their safety and minimize the risk of exposure to harmful chemicals. Hazardous substances can include various medications, chemicals, or materials that pose a risk to human health if not handled properly. Protective clothing, such as gowns or lab coats, serves as a barrier to prevent contamination of skin and personal clothing, while gloves provide a crucial layer of protection for the hands, which are often directly involved in handling these materials. Using appropriate protective gear is a critical component of workplace safety protocols, particularly in the pharmacy environment where technicians may encounter hazardous drugs or chemicals on a regular basis. Wearing regular attire, comfortable shoes, or common laboratory attire does not provide the necessary safeguards against the risks associated with handling hazardous substances. Therefore, understanding the importance of proper protective clothing and gloves is vital for maintaining health and safety standards in the pharmacy setting.

3. In what situation should a pharmacy technician refuse to fill a prescription?

A. When the prescription is too expensive

B. When there is a suspicion of drug abuse or misuse

C. When the patient is rude

D. When the medication is backordered

A pharmacy technician should refuse to fill a prescription when there is a suspicion of drug abuse or misuse because this falls under the responsibility of the technician to ensure patient safety and adhere to legal and ethical standards. If a prescription raises red flags—such as signs of doctor shopping, excessive quantities, or inconsistent medical history—the technician must assess the situation carefully. Refusing to fill such a prescription is not only a protection for the pharmacy but also a safeguard for the patient and the community, as it prevents the potential negative consequences of misuse of controlled substances. In these cases, the technician should communicate their concerns to the pharmacist, who has the authority to make further decisions regarding the prescription. The other scenarios, while they may present challenges in practice, do not generally warrant refusal to fill a prescription based on legal or ethical obligations. For instance, the cost of medication or backorders should be addressed through consultation with the patient about alternatives or availability, and while rude behavior from a patient can be difficult, it does not justify denying care.

4. Which of the following would be considered a serious labeling issue for a drug?

A. Expiration date missing

B. Color of the container

C. Shape of the tablets

D. Size of the box

A serious labeling issue for a drug would indeed be a missing expiration date. The expiration date is essential for ensuring that the medication is safe and effective for use. It indicates the date until which the manufacturer can guarantee the full potency and safety of the drug. Administering a medication beyond its expiration date could lead to ineffective treatment or potential harm to the patient. In contrast, while the other factors, such as the color of the container, the shape of the tablets, and the size of the box, may have implications for brand identification or patient familiarity, they do not directly impact the safety and effectiveness of the medication itself in the same critical way that a missing expiration date does. Therefore, these factors are less significant in terms of labeling compliance and patient safety concerns.

5. What is one of the key label requirements for a prescription bottle?

A. Prescriber’s email address

B. Patient's insurance information

C. Drug name and strength

D. Pharmacy’s promotional message

One of the key label requirements for a prescription bottle is the inclusion of the drug name and strength. This information is crucial for several reasons. First, it ensures that the patient knows exactly what medication they are taking, which is vital for adherence to the treatment plan and for avoiding medication errors. The drug name helps identify the specific medication, while the strength indicates the dosage, which is important for efficacy and safety. The presence of both the drug name and strength on the label allows patients and pharmacists to easily verify that the medication matches what was intended by the prescriber. It also aids in the patient's understanding of their treatment, ensuring they are fully informed about their therapy. Overall, this requirement is foundational for safe medication management and contributes significantly to patient safety.

6. What is the maximum number of refills allowed for a Schedule II controlled substance?

A. One refill allowed

B. No refills allowed; a new prescription is required

C. Two refills allowed

D. Three refills allowed

For Schedule II controlled substances, federal law requires that no refills are allowed. This means that after a prescription for a Schedule II substance is written, a patient must obtain a new prescription each time they want to get the medication filled. The strict regulation surrounding Schedule II drugs is due to their high potential for abuse and dependence, necessitating close monitoring of their dispensing. This requirement is designed to enhance patient safety and prevent misuse or addiction, ensuring that doctors can reassess the patient's need for the medication each time. Without the allowance for refills, it is easier for healthcare professionals to manage prescriptions responsibly and intervene if necessary.

7. What requirement is specified by the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970?

A. All medications must be offered without a prescription

B. OTC and legend drugs must be packaged in child-resistant containers

C. Pharmacies must offer medication counseling

D. All drugs must list their side effects prominently

The Poison Prevention Packaging Act (PPPA) of 1970 established specific regulations aimed at reducing the risk of poisoning among children, particularly from household substances, including drugs. One of the primary requirements set forth by this act is that over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription (legend) medications must be packaged in child-resistant containers. This requirement is crucial because child-resistant packaging significantly minimizes the likelihood of children inadvertently accessing potentially harmful substances. The act was a response to rising incidents of child poisonings due to improper access to medications, and it mandates that packaging should be designed to be difficult for children to open while still remaining accessible to adults. This regulation not only enhances safety but also promotes public health by preventing accidental overdoses and poisonings among the young population. In contrast, offering medications without a prescription, providing medication counseling, and prominently listing side effects are not specifically mandated by the PPPA. While these practices may be important for medication safety and providing patient education, they fall under different regulations and guidelines in pharmacy practice.

8. What is considered a legend drug?

A. A drug that can be sold over the counter

B. A prescription-required medication

C. A drug that has no side effects

D. A medication that is not regulated

A legend drug is defined as a medication that cannot be legally dispensed without a prescription from a licensed healthcare provider. This classification underscores the importance of professional oversight in managing certain medications that have the potential for misuse, require monitoring for safety and efficacy, or are used to treat more complex health conditions that necessitate a healthcare professional's guidance. Legend drugs are often subject to stricter regulations compared to over-the-counter medications, which can be sold directly to consumers without a prescription. This distinction is critical in ensuring patient safety, as it implies that these drugs carry risks that merit evaluation by a qualified professional before use. Essentially, the designation as a legend drug is intertwined with the principle that certain drugs should only be administered under professional supervision to mitigate potential adverse effects and ensure appropriate therapeutic use.

9. What actions should be taken if a medication error occurs?

A. Report the error and document the incident per pharmacy policy

B. Ignore the error if no harm is done

C. Discuss it with the patient directly

D. Notify only the pharmacist on duty

Reporting the error and documenting the incident per pharmacy policy is essential for several reasons. First and foremost, it ensures patient safety by allowing the pharmacy to take necessary corrective actions and prevent similar errors in the future. Documentation creates an official record that can be valuable for quality assurance and ongoing training efforts within the pharmacy. Moreover, following the pharmacy's established protocols helps maintain compliance with legal and regulatory standards. Most healthcare settings require a systematic approach to error reporting, which facilitates review and learning rather than attributing blame. This is critical in fostering a culture of safety where pharmacy technicians and staff feel empowered to report mistakes without fear of retribution. In contrast, ignoring an error—even if no immediate harm appears to have occurred—can lead to dangerous oversights and a lack of accountability. Discussing the error directly with the patient may create unnecessary alarm and could compromise the relationship they have with their healthcare provider, which is typically better handled through systemized reporting channels. Notifying only the pharmacist on duty limits the scope of awareness regarding the incident and undermines the collaborative effort needed to improve pharmacy operations and patient outcomes.

10. The primary focus of the Drug Price Competition and Patent-Term Restoration Act is to promote what?

A. Generic drug price increases

B. Streamlined development of new drugs

C. Increased public access to herbal products

D. The reduction of pharmacy operational costs

The Drug Price Competition and Patent-Term Restoration Act, also known as the Hatch-Waxman Act, primarily aims to promote the streamlined development of new drugs while facilitating the entry of generic drugs into the market. This legislation establishes a balance between encouraging pharmaceutical innovation through patent protection and allowing for the availability of lower-cost generic alternatives once those patents expire. By streamlining the approval process for generic drugs, the Act encourages competition, which can lead to lower prices for consumers. It provides a pathway for generic manufacturers to bring their products to market more quickly, thus benefiting the general public by increasing access to affordable medications. While promoting generic drugs can indirectly lead to cost savings for pharmacies and patients, the primary focus remains on enhancing the efficiency of the drug development process and ensuring that new medications can be made available in a timely manner. This is what sets the purpose of the Act apart from other unrelated aspects such as herbal products or the operational costs of pharmacies.