

Physician Assistant (PA) Professionalism 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. What is autonomy?**
 - A. Self-rule. Patients have the right to make autonomous decisions and choices, and PAs should respect these decisions and choices**
 - B. The obligation to avoid all risk**
 - C. The social duty to provide freebies**
 - D. The process of informing patients about costs**

- 2. The NY State Society of Physician Assistants (NYSSPA) is best described as:**
 - A. A professional association for PAs in NY**
 - B. A government licensing agency**
 - C. A hospital network**
 - D. An academic journal**

- 3. Which statement best describes the HIPAA Privacy Rule?**
 - A. Regulates the use and disclosure of PHI by covered entities such as employer-sponsored plans, insurers, and providers.**
 - B. Sets security standards for electronic PHI.**
 - C. Governs patient consent forms only.**
 - D. Regulates hospital accreditation standards.**

- 4. Informed consent is needed for which of the following?**
 - A. Surgical Procedure**
 - B. IV Contrast Media**
 - C. HIV Testing (Oral Consent)**
 - D. Blood Transfusion**

- 5. What does professionalism mean?**
 - A. The skill, good judgment, and polite behavior that is expected from a person who is trained to do a job well**
 - B. Being patient, listening to your patient, commitment bedside manner, no personal feelings, no religious beliefs**
 - C. Altruism**
 - D. Medical ethics**

- 6. What is the purpose of a health care proxy?**
- A. To pay medical bills**
 - B. To designate who handles your finances**
 - C. To appoint a person and grant authority to make medical decisions for you when you cannot express preferences**
 - D. To request a second medical opinion on all treatments**
- 7. Which item is listed as an exception to the general rule requiring written consent for releasing patient information?**
- A. Routine medical billing**
 - B. Public information requests**
 - C. Workers' compensation**
 - D. Employer health inquiries**
- 8. Which principle obligates to seek good for patients?**
- A. Autonomy**
 - B. Beneficence**
 - C. Nonmaleficence**
 - D. Justice**
- 9. When ending an evaluation with the patient, what should you do?**
- A. Immediately discharge without plan**
 - B. Schedule a follow-up appointment**
 - C. Schedule no further contact**
 - D. File a report to their employer**
- 10. Which statement best describes Medicaid according to the material?**
- A. It is a private plan for the elderly.**
 - B. It is funded entirely by the federal government.**
 - C. It is funded by the federal government partially and managed and co-financed by the states.**
 - D. It provides coverage only for dental services.**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is autonomy?

- A. Self-rule. Patients have the right to make autonomous decisions and choices, and PAs should respect these decisions and choices**
- B. The obligation to avoid all risk**
- C. The social duty to provide freebies**
- D. The process of informing patients about costs**

Autonomy means the patient has self-rule over their health care. Patients have the right to make their own decisions about treatment after they've received clear, relevant information about options, risks, benefits, and alternatives. The clinician's job is to support that choice by discussing the plan, assessing decision-making capacity, obtaining informed consent, and avoiding coercion, even when the clinician would choose differently. If the patient lacks capacity, decisions should be guided by a legally authorized surrogate or advance directives. Autonomy focuses on respecting the patient's values and preferences, not avoiding all risk or handling costs or freebies.

2. The NY State Society of Physician Assistants (NYSSPA) is best described as:

- A. A professional association for PAs in NY**
- B. A government licensing agency**
- C. A hospital network**
- D. An academic journal**

Professional associations unite practitioners to advance a field through advocacy, education, and member services. The NY State Society of Physician Assistants is exactly that kind of organization for physician assistants in New York: a membership group that represents PAs, provides continuing education and resources, and speaks on behalf of the profession to policymakers and the public. It is not a government licensing agency that grants or regulates licenses, not a hospital network that delivers care, and not an academic journal that publishes research.

3. Which statement best describes the HIPAA Privacy Rule?

- A. Regulates the use and disclosure of PHI by covered entities such as employer-sponsored plans, insurers, and providers.**
- B. Sets security standards for electronic PHI.**
- C. Governs patient consent forms only.**
- D. Regulates hospital accreditation standards.**

The main idea is that the HIPAA Privacy Rule sets the rules for how protected health information (PHI) can be used and disclosed by those who handle it. It applies to covered entities—such as providers, health plans, and healthcare clearinghouses—and their business associates, clarifying who may access PHI, what disclosures are allowed, and under what circumstances. It also establishes patients' rights around their information, like access to their records and control over disclosures, and it requires safeguards such as implementing a notice of privacy practices and following the minimum necessary standard for sharing PHI. This rule focuses on privacy and handling of information, not on securing electronic data (that's the Security Rule) and not on consent forms alone or on hospital accreditation standards.

4. Informed consent is needed for which of the following?

- A. Surgical Procedure
- B. IV Contrast Media**
- C. HIV Testing (Oral Consent)
- D. Blood Transfusion

Informed consent is required whenever a patient is asked to undergo a medical intervention that has identifiable risks, benefits, and alternatives, and the patient must understand and voluntarily agree to proceed. Administering IV contrast is a distinct procedure with specific, known risks, such as possible allergic-like reactions and contrast-induced nephrotoxicity, as well as the potential for extravasation. Because these risks are concrete and patient understanding of them is essential, explicit consent is obtained before giving the contrast. While other medical actions often involve consent as part of standard care, the contrast administration stands out as a clear case where the discussion of risks, alternatives (like non-contrast imaging or a different modality), and what to do if a reaction occurs is necessary before proceeding.

5. What does professionalism mean?

- A. The skill, good judgment, and polite behavior that is expected from a person who is trained to do a job well**
- B. Being patient, listening to your patient, commitment bedside manner, no personal feelings, no religious beliefs
- C. Altruism
- D. Medical ethics

Professionalism in healthcare means applying your training with competence and a professional demeanor to earn and maintain patient trust. The best choice captures this by describing professionalism as the combination of skill, good judgment, and polite behavior expected from someone who is trained to do a job well, which covers both how well you can care for patients and how you interact with them and colleagues. It isn't just technical ability; it also includes clear communication, respect for patients, confidentiality, accountability, and sensitivity to diverse beliefs. The other statements are too narrow for professionalism: one overemphasizes bedside manner and dismisses personal beliefs, another reduces professionalism to altruism alone, and another confines it to ethics rather than the broader mix of skills, judgment, and professional conduct.

6. What is the purpose of a health care proxy?

- A. To pay medical bills
- B. To designate who handles your finances
- C. To appoint a person and grant authority to make medical decisions for you when you cannot express preferences**
- D. To request a second medical opinion on all treatments

A health care proxy is about who will make medical decisions for you when you can't express your preferences yourself. It designates a trusted person to act as your surrogate and to decide on treatments, care settings, and other medical choices in line with your values or known wishes if you're incapacitated due to illness, injury, or anesthesia. This is a key part of advance care planning and is separate from financial matters (which would be covered by a financial power of attorney) and from seeking a second medical opinion (which is a medical process, not about who makes decisions on your behalf). Often the document also allows you to name backups, set any limits, and specify instructions, and you can revoke or change it while you're competent.

7. Which item is listed as an exception to the general rule requiring written consent for releasing patient information?

- A. Routine medical billing
- B. Public information requests
- C. Workers' compensation**
- D. Employer health inquiries

Disclosures of patient information have built-in exceptions where written consent isn't needed. One well-established exception is releasing necessary medical information to workers' compensation programs or insurers so a workers' compensation claim can be processed and benefits paid. This isn't about sharing everything; it hinges on the minimum information needed to handle the claim, and the law allows it to proceed without a separate patient authorization. This helps ensure timely and accurate claim processing for work-related injuries. The other listed situations don't carry that same automatic bypass of consent in this context, either because they require a separate authorization or aren't universally designated as a permissible non-consensual disclosure for claim processing.

8. Which principle obligates to seek good for patients?

- A. Autonomy
- B. Beneficence**
- C. Nonmaleficence
- D. Justice

Beneficence is the obligation to promote the patient's good and welfare. In practice, this means actively seeking to improve health, relieve suffering, and prevent harm by offering effective, appropriate treatments and interventions that have a favorable balance of benefits over risks. It drives clinicians to act in the patient's best interests and to pursue care that truly enhances well-being. This principle is distinct from autonomy, which centers on respecting a patient's right to make their own choices; nonmaleficence, which is the duty to do no harm; and justice, which focuses on fair and equal distribution of resources and care. In real-life care, beneficence guides decisions like choosing evidence-based therapies and pursuing actions most likely to improve outcomes, while still considering and respecting patient preferences when possible.

9. When ending an evaluation with the patient, what should you do?

- A. Immediately discharge without plan**
- B. Schedule a follow-up appointment**
- C. Schedule no further contact**
- D. File a report to their employer**

Ending an evaluation with a plan for ongoing care is essential. Scheduling a follow-up appointment provides the next step to monitor how the patient responds to treatment, reassess symptoms, and adjust the plan if needed. It also signals to the patient that their care continues and gives them a concrete time to return with questions or new concerns, which helps with safety and reassurance. This approach supports continuity of care, strengthens the patient-clinician relationship, and can protect both patient well-being and the clinician by documenting an agreed plan. Discharging without a plan, or cutting off contact, leaves the patient without guidance and resources to manage their symptoms or escalate care if things worsen. Filing a report to an employer is not appropriate in this clinical context and would breach patient privacy.

10. Which statement best describes Medicaid according to the material?

- A. It is a private plan for the elderly.**
- B. It is funded entirely by the federal government.**
- C. It is funded by the federal government partially and managed and co-financed by the states.**
- D. It provides coverage only for dental services.**

Medicaid is a joint federal-state program that provides health coverage to people with limited income. The federal government supplies funds through a matching mechanism, but states administer the program and share in the costs, with the federal share (FMAP) varying by state. This makes Medicaid neither entirely federally funded nor a private plan for the elderly. It also isn't limited to dental services. The key idea is that financing comes from the federal government in part, and the states manage and co-finance the program.

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://paprofessionalism.examzify.com>

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

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