

Physician Assistants (PA) & Society 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. Regarding cosignatures on PA prescriptions, when is a cosignature required in NY?**
 - A. Always**
 - B. Only for Schedule II substances**
 - C. Never**
 - D. Only if the institution requires it**

- 2. Which payer type is commonly used to reimburse work-related injuries?**
 - A. Insurance**
 - B. Workers Comp**
 - C. No fault**
 - D. Cash**

- 3. Which service is NOT covered by Medicare Part A?**
 - A. Inpatient hospital care**
 - B. Hospice care**
 - C. Ambulance services**
 - D. Some home healthcare**

- 4. In what format are prescriptions required to be written in NY?**
 - A. Electronic**
 - B. Handwritten**
 - C. Verbal**
 - D. Faxed**

- 5. Which item is NOT listed as a reason for malpractice lawsuits?**
 - A. Referrals**
 - B. Failure to diagnose**
 - C. Inadequate exam or treatment**
 - D. Advanced imaging protocols**

- 6. Which principle is about fair distribution of benefits and burdens in similar situations?**
- A. Autonomy**
 - B. Beneficence**
 - C. Nonmaleficence**
 - D. Justice**
- 7. Which service is NOT covered by Medicare Part B?**
- A. Medically necessary services provided by a clinician**
 - B. Clinical laboratory and diagnostic services**
 - C. Durable medical equipment and supplies**
 - D. Hospice care**
- 8. Which documentation type includes Chief Complaint, extended HPI, pertinent system review, and extended to include a review of a limited number of additional system, pertinent past, family, and social history? (2 - 9 systems)**
- A. Problem Focused**
 - B. Comprehensive**
 - C. Expanded Problem Focused**
 - D. Detailed**
- 9. Which term describes the proactive assessment to identify potential failure modes before they occur?**
- A. Root cause analysis**
 - B. Reactive maintenance**
 - C. Failure Modes and Effects Analysis**
 - D. Post-incident review**
- 10. Which scenario triggers a 1-year statute of limitations in New York medical malpractice cases?**
- A. A surgical object found in the body**
 - B. A patient turning 18**
 - C. A patient moving to another state**
 - D. A provider changing licenses**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Regarding cosignatures on PA prescriptions, when is a cosignature required in NY?

- A. Always
- B. Only for Schedule II substances
- C. Never
- D. Only if the institution requires it**

In New York, cosignatures on PA prescriptions are not mandated by state law for all cases. Whether a cosignature is required depends on the institution's own policy. Supervision and prescriptive authority are set through the PA's practice agreement with a supervising physician, but the actual requirement to have a cosignature is a policy decision of the employer or facility. That's why the correct answer is that a cosignature is required only if the institution requires it. Context: PAs in NY operate under supervising physicians, and they may prescribe medications under that relationship. The addition of a cosignature is a safety and accountability measure chosen by the workplace—some places require cosignatures for all prescriptions, some only for certain drug classes or scenarios, and some may not require them at all. The key point is that it's facility-driven, not universally mandated by law.

2. Which payer type is commonly used to reimburse work-related injuries?

- A. Insurance
- B. Workers Comp**
- C. No fault
- D. Cash

For work-related injuries, the payer type used is workers' compensation. This system is specifically designed to cover injuries that occur on the job and is funded by employers, either through state programs, private insurers, or self-insurance. It operates on a no-fault basis, meaning employees receive medical benefits and wage replacement without having to prove the employer was at fault. This makes workers' compensation the standard route for reimbursing work injuries, rather than relying on general health insurance, paying out of pocket, or other mechanisms. (No-fault describes how benefits are provided, not who pays in traditional contexts.)

3. Which service is NOT covered by Medicare Part A?

- A. Inpatient hospital care
- B. Hospice care
- C. Ambulance services**
- D. Some home healthcare

Medicare Part A covers inpatient hospital stays, hospice care, and some home health services. Ambulance transport isn't included in Part A; it's generally covered under Medicare Part B, which pays for medically necessary ambulance transport to a hospital or between medical facilities. So the service that isn't covered by Part A is ambulance services.

4. In what format are prescriptions required to be written in NY?

- A. Electronic**
- B. Handwritten**
- C. Verbal**
- D. Faxed**

The main idea is that New York prescribes in electronic format. Prescriptions are expected to be transmitted electronically from the prescriber to the pharmacy, rather than written by hand, spoken over the phone, or sent by fax. This electronic system reduces misreading of handwriting, speeds dispensing, and enables automatic safety checks like drug interactions and allergy alerts. While there are occasional exceptions when e-prescribing isn't possible, the standard and required format in New York is electronic prescriptions.

5. Which item is NOT listed as a reason for malpractice lawsuits?

- A. Referrals**
- B. Failure to diagnose**
- C. Inadequate exam or treatment**
- D. Advanced imaging protocols**

Malpractice claims usually stem from care that fails to meet the standard of practice in a way that harms the patient, with the most common bases being missing or delaying a diagnosis, performing an inadequate exam or treatment, or failing to refer appropriately. Advanced imaging protocols describe how imaging is performed, which is part of the diagnostic process, but by itself it isn't a standalone, commonly cited category for malpractice. A claim would focus on whether the imaging decision, its timing, interpretation, or follow-up met the standard of care. So advanced imaging protocols aren't typically listed as a primary reason, whereas referrals, failure to diagnose, and inadequate exam or treatment are.

6. Which principle is about fair distribution of benefits and burdens in similar situations?

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

Justice governs fair distribution of benefits and burdens in similar situations. It means treating like cases alike, ensuring equal access to care, and allocating scarce resources without bias. In practice, if two patients have similar medical needs, justice supports giving them similar opportunities for treatment and minimizing unfair disparities, while considering overall fairness in the system (for example, in organ allocation or vaccine distribution). Autonomy focuses on respecting individual patient choices; beneficence on doing good for the patient; nonmaleficence on avoiding harm. These are important factors, but they address different aspects—justice specifically targets fairness across people in comparable circumstances.

7. Which service is NOT covered by Medicare Part B?

- A. Medically necessary services provided by a clinician**
- B. Clinical laboratory and diagnostic services**
- C. Durable medical equipment and supplies**
- D. Hospice care**

Hospice care is not covered by Medicare Part B because hospice is a Part A benefit. Part B covers outpatient and clinician-provided services, including medically necessary services, clinical labs/diagnostics, and durable medical equipment. To receive hospice services, a patient must have Part A and elect hospice care, which is provided under the Part A hospice benefit rather than Part B.

8. Which documentation type includes Chief Complaint, extended HPI, pertinent system review, and extended to include a review of a limited number of additional system, pertinent past, family, and social history? (2 - 9 systems)

- A. Problem Focused**
- B. Comprehensive**
- C. Expanded Problem Focused**
- D. Detailed**

The question is about the level of documentation used in history and systems review. A Detailed documentation level includes a Chief Complaint and an extended History of Present Illness, plus a review of systems that is extended to cover a limited number of additional systems (typically 2-9), along with a Past, Family, and Social History that is pertinent to the problem. This combination indicates more depth than a focused visit but stops short of a complete, multi-system ROS and full PFSH. Therefore, the described documentation aligns with a Detailed level. Expanded problem-focused would have a more limited ROS and less extensive HPI, and comprehensive would require a complete ROS (10+ systems) and a complete PFSH. The 2-9 systems and pertinent history described point to Detailed as the best fit.

9. Which term describes the proactive assessment to identify potential failure modes before they occur?

- A. Root cause analysis**
- B. Reactive maintenance**
- C. Failure Modes and Effects Analysis**
- D. Post-incident review**

Failure Modes and Effects Analysis is a proactive assessment that identifies potential failure modes before they occur. It brings together a cross-functional team to examine each component or step of a process or product, asking how it could fail, what the consequences would be for the system or patient, how severe those consequences would be, how likely the failure is, and how detectable it would be before harm happens. By scoring severity, likelihood, and detectability, the team prioritizes risks and implements preventive controls, then revisits the analysis to verify effectiveness. This approach contrasts with retrospective methods like root cause analysis, which investigate failures after they happen, or post-incident reviews, and with reactive maintenance, which repairs after a failure rather than preventing it.

10. Which scenario triggers a 1-year statute of limitations in New York medical malpractice cases?

- A. A surgical object found in the body**
- B. A patient turning 18**
- C. A patient moving to another state**
- D. A provider changing licenses**

In New York, medical malpractice deadlines have a special rule for cases where a foreign object is left inside a patient after surgery. If a surgical object is discovered in the body, the clock starts when the object is found (or should have been discovered with reasonable diligence), and the suit must be filed within one year of that discovery. This short, discovery-based window is designed to address injuries that aren't immediately apparent but are discoverable once the patient realizes there's a retained object. The other scenarios don't create this one-year window. Turning 18 involves the general tolling rules for minors and doesn't establish a one-year discovery period. Moving to another state or a provider changing licenses doesn't trigger a separate one-year limit either. The key idea is that a retained surgical object leads to a distinct, shorter deadline.

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://paandsociety.examzify.com>

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

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