

Practical Nurse (PN) Management 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

- 1. What is a key responsibility of a PN in medication management?**
 - A. Deciding independent treatment plans**
 - B. Administering medications as prescribed by the physician**
 - C. Managing the pharmacy inventory**
 - D. Preparing medications for all healthcare staff**
- 2. In a nursing environment, how should priorities be set for client care?**
 - A. Based on the nurse's assessment and clinical judgement**
 - B. Following hospital policy only**
 - C. Based on the client's financial situation**
 - D. According to the doctor's orders primarily**
- 3. What action should the nurse take to assist a client who speaks a different language during discharge teaching?**
 - A. Use a translation app on her phone**
 - B. Contact an interpreting service via telephone**
 - C. Provide written instructions in English**
 - D. Ask the client's partner to translate**
- 4. What is the primary role of a Practical Nurse (PN) in patient management?**
 - A. To provide basic nursing care and support under the supervision of a registered nurse or physician**
 - B. To perform advanced medical procedures independently**
 - C. To diagnose medical conditions without supervision**
 - D. To conduct research on patient care methods**
- 5. Which nursing intervention is most effective for preventing deep vein thrombosis (DVT) in immobile patients?**
 - A. Encouraging the patient to remain in bed**
 - B. Applying warm compresses to the legs**
 - C. Encouraging active range of motion exercises**
 - D. Providing the patient with a high carbohydrate diet**

- 6. What demonstrates safe transfer technique by assistive personnel during client transfer?**
- A. Bending at the waist**
 - B. Bending at the knees**
 - C. Keeping arms straight**
 - D. Using a one-person lift**
- 7. When assessing a client's pain, what scale is typically used to quantify pain levels?**
- A. ABC Scale**
 - B. Numeric Rating Scale**
 - C. Visual Analog Scale**
 - D. Oucher Scale**
- 8. What should be included in a care plan regarding a patient's preferences?**
- A. They should be disregarded in favor of medical advice**
 - B. They must be noted and respected**
 - C. Patient preferences are unimportant**
 - D. They can be influenced by staff only**
- 9. A nurse notices smoke coming from an electrical outlet while collecting data from a client. What is the first action the nurse should take?**
- A. Turn off the electrical equipment**
 - B. Call for emergency assistance**
 - C. Take the client out of the room**
 - D. Investigate the source of the smoke**
- 10. What is one primary goal of a PN when managing patient care?**
- A. To save the most time during patient interactions**
 - B. To ensure patients fully understand their care plan**
 - C. To focus on administrative tasks over patient needs**
 - D. To complete tasks as quickly as possible**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is a key responsibility of a PN in medication management?

- A. Deciding independent treatment plans**
- B. Administering medications as prescribed by the physician**
- C. Managing the pharmacy inventory**
- D. Preparing medications for all healthcare staff**

In medication management, a key responsibility of a Practical Nurse (PN) is to administer medications as prescribed by the physician. This role is vital because administering medications correctly is crucial to ensuring patient safety and promoting therapeutic outcomes. PNs are trained to understand the effects of medications, potential side effects, dosing, and the proper routes of administration. They play a direct role in monitoring patients' responses to medications and reporting any concerns back to the healthcare team. This responsibility does not encompass deciding independent treatment plans, as PNs typically work under the supervision of a physician or other healthcare professionals. Additionally, while managing pharmacy inventory and preparing medications involve significant tasks, they fall outside the direct nursing scope related to patient care and administration. The primary focus for PNs is to ensure that medications are given safely, as part of a comprehensive patient care plan established by a licensed healthcare provider.

2. In a nursing environment, how should priorities be set for client care?

- A. Based on the nurse's assessment and clinical judgement**
- B. Following hospital policy only**
- C. Based on the client's financial situation**
- D. According to the doctor's orders primarily**

Setting priorities for client care in a nursing environment is fundamental to effective patient management and best practice standards. The correct approach involves relying on the nurse's assessment and clinical judgment. This method ensures that care is tailored to each client's unique needs and circumstances, taking into account their medical history, current condition, and any immediate risks to their health. When a nurse conducts an assessment, they gather critical information about the client's physical and emotional state, which allows them to identify urgent issues that require immediate attention versus those that can be addressed later. This prioritization is guided by principles such as the ABCs (airway, breathing, circulation) and Maslow's hierarchy of needs, ensuring that the most critical issues affecting the client's safety and well-being are prioritized. While hospital policy, financial considerations, and doctor's orders are important in the overall context of care, they do not supersede the need for a nurse's individualized assessment. Policies provide a framework and guidelines, financial situations can influence the feasibility of certain treatments, and doctor's orders must be followed; however, the nurse's clinical judgment is essential for determining the urgency and appropriateness of care based on real-time evaluations. This approach fosters a comprehensive and holistic view of patient care which is vital for achieving optimal health.

3. What action should the nurse take to assist a client who speaks a different language during discharge teaching?

- A. Use a translation app on her phone**
- B. Contact an interpreting service via telephone**
- C. Provide written instructions in English**
- D. Ask the client's partner to translate**

The nurse should contact an interpreting service via telephone to assist a client who speaks a different language during discharge teaching because this option ensures effective and accurate communication. Professional interpreting services are specially trained to convey complex medical information clearly and accurately, thus reducing the possibility of misunderstandings that could impact the client's safety and wellbeing post-discharge. Using a translation app on a phone may not provide the nuanced understanding required for medical instructions, as these applications can sometimes misinterpret context or terminology specific to healthcare. Providing written instructions in English does not address the language barrier, as the client may not comprehend the written material. Relying on the client's partner to translate could also be problematic, as the partner may not fully understand or accurately convey medical terminology, which could lead to important information being lost or misinterpreted. Therefore, utilizing a professional interpreting service is the most effective way to ensure the client receives clear and comprehensive instructions.

4. What is the primary role of a Practical Nurse (PN) in patient management?

- A. To provide basic nursing care and support under the supervision of a registered nurse or physician**
- B. To perform advanced medical procedures independently**
- C. To diagnose medical conditions without supervision**
- D. To conduct research on patient care methods**

The primary role of a Practical Nurse (PN) in patient management is to provide basic nursing care and support under the supervision of a registered nurse or physician. PNs are integral members of the healthcare team, primarily focusing on essential nursing tasks such as monitoring vital signs, administering medications, assisting with daily living activities, and providing emotional support to patients. Their training equips them with the skills necessary to deliver competent care while working collaboratively within established protocols and under the guidance of more advanced nursing professionals. This ensures that patient management is handled effectively while adhering to safety and care standards. PNs typically do not perform advanced medical procedures independently, nor are they trained to diagnose medical conditions, as those tasks require higher levels of education and clinical decision-making that are provided by registered nurses or other healthcare providers. Additionally, while research is an important aspect of healthcare, it is not a primary responsibility of the PN, who focuses more on direct patient care rather than conducting studies or research related to patient care methods.

5. Which nursing intervention is most effective for preventing deep vein thrombosis (DVT) in immobile patients?

- A. Encouraging the patient to remain in bed**
- B. Applying warm compresses to the legs**
- C. Encouraging active range of motion exercises**
- D. Providing the patient with a high carbohydrate diet**

Encouraging active range of motion exercises is the most effective intervention for preventing deep vein thrombosis (DVT) in immobile patients because it promotes blood circulation in the lower extremities. When patients are immobile, blood flow can slow down, increasing the risk of clot formation since stagnant blood can lead to the development of thrombi in the veins. Active range of motion exercises help to engage the muscles, which in turn assists in the venous return of blood to the heart, effectively reducing the risk of DVT. In contrast, remaining in bed can promote immobility and increase DVT risk, while applying warm compresses does not address circulation issues effectively and may provide symptomatic relief but won't prevent clot formation. Lastly, providing a high carbohydrate diet is unrelated to promoting vascular health or preventing thrombus formation. It is essential to maintain mobility and engage muscle activity to support vascular circulation in individuals at risk for DVT.

6. What demonstrates safe transfer technique by assistive personnel during client transfer?

- A. Bending at the waist**
- B. Bending at the knees**
- C. Keeping arms straight**
- D. Using a one-person lift**

Using safe transfer techniques is crucial for preventing injury to both the client and the assistive personnel. Bending at the knees is the correct technique because it utilizes the powerful muscles of the legs rather than the back, which is more susceptible to injury. This method also allows for better balance and stability during the transfer process. When assistive personnel bend at the knees, they can maintain a neutral spine position, which is essential for protecting the back. This technique helps ensure that the weight is distributed properly and provides a solid base for lifting or moving the client. In contrast, bending at the waist, keeping arms straight, and relying on a one-person lift are practices that can lead to strain, injury, or ineffective transfers. Bending at the waist can put undue stress on the lower back, leading to potential injuries. Keeping arms straight can limit the ability to grasp the person securely, leading to an unsafe transfer. Additionally, a one-person lift is generally not recommended due to the risk of overexertion and the potential for dropping the client, which can result in harm to both the client and the caregiver. Overall, bending at the knees is the safest approach, as it promotes proper body mechanics and reduces the risk of injury.

7. When assessing a client's pain, what scale is typically used to quantify pain levels?

A. ABC Scale

B. Numeric Rating Scale

C. Visual Analog Scale

D. Oucher Scale

The Numeric Rating Scale is a commonly used tool in clinical settings for quantifying pain levels. This scale typically ranges from 0 to 10, with 0 representing "no pain" and 10 indicating "the worst possible pain." This simplicity allows patients to communicate their pain level effectively, facilitating better assessment by healthcare providers. The Numeric Rating Scale is beneficial because it is easy to understand and use, requiring minimal instruction for patients, which can be particularly useful in busy clinical environments where immediate communication of pain levels is necessary. For many healthcare professionals, the Numeric Rating Scale provides a clear and straightforward method to track changes in a patient's pain over time, aiding in developing a care plan tailored to alleviate that pain effectively. Its numerical nature allows for easy documentation and comparison of pain levels, enhancing ongoing pain management efforts.

8. What should be included in a care plan regarding a patient's preferences?

A. They should be disregarded in favor of medical advice

B. They must be noted and respected

C. Patient preferences are unimportant

D. They can be influenced by staff only

In a care plan, it's essential to note and respect a patient's preferences because they are integral to providing patient-centered care. By involving patients in their own care decisions, healthcare providers can ensure that treatments align with what is meaningful and comfortable for the patient. This approach fosters collaboration and trust between the patient and the healthcare team, ultimately enhancing patient satisfaction, compliance with the treatment plan, and overall health outcomes. Recognizing preferences also acknowledges the individuality of each patient, promoting dignity and autonomy in their healthcare journey. Incorporating patient preferences into the care plan helps create a more holistic and tailored approach to care, making it an essential aspect of effective nursing practice.

9. A nurse notices smoke coming from an electrical outlet while collecting data from a client. What is the first action the nurse should take?

- A. Turn off the electrical equipment**
- B. Call for emergency assistance**
- C. Take the client out of the room**
- D. Investigate the source of the smoke**

In this scenario, the most immediate priority is the safety and well-being of the client. The nurse's first action should be to ensure that the client is removed from the potential danger posed by the smoke. Smoke can indicate a fire or electrical hazard, which could quickly escalate and put the client and others at risk. By promptly evacuating the client, the nurse is prioritizing life safety over other actions that could be considered afterward. It's important to recognize that while turning off electrical equipment, calling for assistance, or investigating the source of smoke are all valid actions, they can potentially expose the nurse and the client to harm if the situation escalates. The client's immediate safety is of utmost importance, and removing them from the room is the first step in managing this emergency effectively. After ensuring the client is safe, the nurse could then follow up with other necessary actions such as calling for help or addressing the source of the smoke.

10. What is one primary goal of a PN when managing patient care?

- A. To save the most time during patient interactions**
- B. To ensure patients fully understand their care plan**
- C. To focus on administrative tasks over patient needs**
- D. To complete tasks as quickly as possible**

The primary goal of a Practical Nurse (PN) when managing patient care is to ensure that patients fully understand their care plan. This aspect is crucial because patient education fosters active participation in their own care, leading to better adherence to treatment protocols and ultimately improved health outcomes. When patients comprehend their care plans, they are more likely to engage in their recovery process, recognize the importance of medication regimens, and understand lifestyle modifications. This understanding helps to empower patients, reduces anxiety, and enhances overall satisfaction with care. In contrast, prioritizing time-saving measures or administrative tasks can detract from patient care. While efficiency is important in a healthcare setting, it should not come at the expense of meaningful patient interactions and education. Furthermore, focusing merely on completing tasks quickly undermines the quality of care and the individual needs of the patient, which are central to effective nursing practice. So, the emphasis on ensuring patient understanding aligns directly with the core values of patient-centered care in nursing.

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://pnmanagement.examzify.com>

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