

PROPHECY/RELIAS RN PHARMACOLOGY A PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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 should patients be educated about when prescribed antibiotics?**
 - A. To stop taking them when symptoms improve
 - B. To take with food only
 - C. To complete the full course of medication
 - D. To avoid drinking fluids while taking
- 2. What common side effect should be monitored in a patient taking cyclophosphamide?**
 - A. Constipation
 - B. Nausea
 - C. Drowsiness
 - D. Increased appetite
- 3. Why is normal saline (NS) the solution of choice for administering a blood transfusion?**
 - A. NS is isotonic
 - B. NS prevents any allergic reactions
 - C. NS enhances blood clotting
 - D. NS is the only solution compatible with all blood types
- 4. Which medication is incompatible for administration with Lactated Ringers solution?**
 - A. Potassium chloride
 - B. Diazepam (Valium)
 - C. Insulin
 - D. Amiodarone
- 5. Which medication is used to treat iron toxicity?**
 - A. Digoxin immune fab (Digibind)
 - B. Naloxone (Narcan)
 - C. Mephyton (Vitamin K)
 - D. Deferoxamine

- 6. The dosage of which drug must be tapered off slowly to prevent acute adrenal insufficiency?**
- A. Prednisone (Deltasone)
 - B. Ibuprofen (Advil)
 - C. Levothyroxine (Synthroid)
 - D. Metformin (Glucophage)
- 7. Which of the following medications can cause sedation as a side effect?**
- A. Acetaminophen
 - B. Albuterol
 - C. Antihistamines
 - D. Metformin
- 8. What is the primary action of beta-blockers in treating heart conditions?**
- A. Increase heart rate
 - B. Reduce heart rate and lower blood pressure
 - C. Increase oxygen demand
 - D. Remove excess fluid from the body
- 9. What is a common side effect associated with long-term use of anticoagulants?**
- A. Nausea
 - B. Increased bleeding risk
 - C. Weight gain
 - D. Joint pain
- 10. What is the most effective way for a patient to use Guaifenesin (Mucinex)?**
- A. Take it with a small sip of water
 - B. Take it every hour
 - C. Take it with a full glass of water
 - D. Take it only at bedtime

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What should patients be educated about when prescribed antibiotics?

- A. To stop taking them when symptoms improve
- B. To take with food only
- C. To complete the full course of medication**
- D. To avoid drinking fluids while taking

When patients are prescribed antibiotics, it is essential for them to understand the importance of completing the full course of medication. This practice helps ensure the infection is fully cleared from the body, which is crucial for several reasons. First, stopping antibiotics early, even when symptoms improve, can lead to the survival of some bacteria. These remaining bacteria may not only continue to cause the infection but could also develop resistance to the antibiotic. This resistance makes future infections harder to treat and limits the effectiveness of that antibiotic for both the individual and the community. Additionally, completing the prescribed course prevents the recurrence of the infection, which could happen if the dosage is not adequate to eliminate all pathogens. Education on this aspect reinforces the responsibility the patient has in their treatment regimen and within public health considerations, which includes preventing antibiotic resistance. While there are valid considerations regarding food intake and fluid consumption with some medications, the most critical piece of information revolves around completing the entire antibiotic course.

2. What common side effect should be monitored in a patient taking cyclophosphamide?

- A. Constipation
- B. Nausea**
- C. Drowsiness
- D. Increased appetite

Monitoring for nausea in a patient taking cyclophosphamide is essential due to the drug's well-documented emetic potential. Cyclophosphamide is an alkylating agent used in chemotherapy, and it can cause significant gastrointestinal side effects, particularly nausea and vomiting. These side effects typically occur due to the drug's impact on rapidly dividing cells in the gastrointestinal tract. Patients may experience this side effect soon after administration or even several days later, necessitating preemptive anti-nausea medication to improve comfort and treatment adherence. Recognizing and managing nausea effectively can contribute significantly to a patient's quality of life during chemotherapy. In contrast, while drowsiness, constipation, and increased appetite can occur with various medications, they are not commonly associated with cyclophosphamide. Drowsiness may arise from other medications or conditions, and increased appetite is not a typical response to chemotherapy agents like cyclophosphamide, which often lead to decreased appetite.

3. Why is normal saline (NS) the solution of choice for administering a blood transfusion?

A. NS is isotonic

B. NS prevents any allergic reactions

C. NS enhances blood clotting

D. NS is the only solution compatible with all blood types

Normal saline (NS) is the solution of choice for administering a blood transfusion primarily because it is isotonic, meaning it has a similar osmotic pressure to that of the body's cells and plasma. This characteristic helps maintain fluid balance and prevents the risk of hemolysis, which can occur if a hypotonic solution is used. When blood products are transfused, it's essential to use a solution that does not disrupt the red blood cells' integrity and maintains the stability of the blood components. Isotonic solutions like normal saline ensure that fluid shifts do not occur inappropriately between the bloodstream and the cells, which could lead to complications. Using an isotonic solution facilitates the infusion of blood products without causing adverse reactions related to osmolarity, such as swelling or burst red blood cells. While normal saline does not prevent allergic reactions or enhance blood clotting, and although other fluids may be used under certain circumstances, its compatibility with blood products during transfusions is primarily due to its isotonic nature. This ensures that the administered blood products function as intended without introducing additional risks associated with the fluid used.

4. Which medication is incompatible for administration with Lactated Ringers solution?

A. Potassium chloride

B. Diazepam (Valium)

C. Insulin

D. Amiodarone

Diazepam (Valium) is the medication that is incompatible for administration with Lactated Ringer's solution due to its chemical properties. Diazepam is a lipid-soluble drug that is formulated in a propylene glycol medium. When diazepam is mixed with aqueous solutions, such as Lactated Ringer's, it can precipitate and become physically incompatible. This can lead to the formation of solid particles, which can be harmful if infused into the bloodstream, potentially causing blockages or damage to blood vessels. Understanding the compatibility of medications with intravenous fluids is critical in clinical practice to ensure patient safety. In situations where multiple medications need to be administered, healthcare providers must be aware of the potential for incompatibilities to avoid adverse effects.

5. Which medication is used to treat iron toxicity?

A. Digoxin immune fab (Digibind)

B. Naloxone (Narcan)

C. Mephyton (Vitamin K)

D. Deferoxamine

To address iron toxicity, the appropriate treatment is deferoxamine. This medication is a chelating agent specifically designed to bind free iron in the bloodstream, facilitating its excretion from the body through the urine. When iron levels become dangerously high, as can occur in cases of overdose or certain medical conditions, deferoxamine effectively helps to reduce the toxic effects of excess iron, thereby preventing serious complications. While other options are useful in their specific contexts—such as Digoxin immune fab for digoxin toxicity, naloxone for opioid overdose, and vitamin K for anticoagulant reversal—they do not have a role in treating iron toxicity. In cases of iron overdose, it is crucial to use a drug that directly addresses the presence of excess iron, making deferoxamine the correct choice for this situation.

6. The dosage of which drug must be tapered off slowly to prevent acute adrenal insufficiency?

A. Prednisone (Deltasone)

B. Ibuprofen (Advil)

C. Levothyroxine (Synthroid)

D. Metformin (Glucophage)

Prednisone, a corticosteroid, is commonly used to reduce inflammation and suppress the immune system. When a patient has been on long-term corticosteroid therapy, their body's own production of corticosteroids may become suppressed due to feedback mechanisms. If prednisone is discontinued suddenly, the adrenal glands may not be capable of producing adequate levels of cortisol, leading to a serious condition called acute adrenal insufficiency, which can result in symptoms such as fatigue, weakness, and even life-threatening crises. To prevent this, the dosage of prednisone must be gradually tapered down, allowing the adrenal glands time to resume normal function and cortisol production. This tapering process helps minimize the risk of withdrawal symptoms and ensures that the patient's body can adjust to the decrease in exogenous steroid levels safely. Other medications listed, such as ibuprofen, levothyroxine, and metformin, do not typically require tapering. Ibuprofen is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) and does not lead to adrenal suppression. Levothyroxine, a thyroid hormone replacement, and metformin, used for managing diabetes, are not associated with adrenal insufficiency either. Thus, tapering is specifically critical for corticosteroids like prednisone to ensure patient safety.

7. Which of the following medications can cause sedation as a side effect?

- A. Acetaminophen
- B. Albuterol
- C. Antihistamines**
- D. Metformin

Antihistamines are known to cause sedation as a common side effect, particularly the first-generation antihistamines such as diphenhydramine. These medications work by blocking histamine receptors in the brain, which can lead to drowsiness. This sedative effect is often utilized in over-the-counter sleep aids or for the treatment of allergies when sedation is considered a beneficial side effect. In contrast, acetaminophen is primarily an analgesic and antipyretic with minimal sedative effects. Albuterol, a bronchodilator, is designed to open airways and does not typically cause sedation; its primary side effects may include tremors or increased heart rate. Metformin, used for managing type 2 diabetes, is not associated with sedation either; its common side effects are gastrointestinal, like nausea and diarrhea. Thus, antihistamines stand out as the medication group here that is recognized for causing sedation.

8. What is the primary action of beta-blockers in treating heart conditions?

- A. Increase heart rate
- B. Reduce heart rate and lower blood pressure**
- C. Increase oxygen demand
- D. Remove excess fluid from the body

Beta-blockers are primarily used in managing heart conditions due to their ability to reduce heart rate and lower blood pressure. They achieve this by blocking the effects of adrenaline, a hormone that elevates heart rate and blood pressure during stressful situations. By inhibiting these effects, beta-blockers help to decrease the heart's workload and the overall demand for oxygen, which is especially beneficial in conditions like hypertension, heart failure, and arrhythmias. The reduction in heart rate contributes to better myocardial oxygen supply and demand balance, making the heart more efficient. Additionally, lowering blood pressure can prevent complications associated with chronic hypertension that could lead to heart disease. This mechanism is essential for patients with a history of heart issues or those at risk of serious cardiovascular events, allowing for a more stable and manageable condition.

9. What is a common side effect associated with long-term use of anticoagulants?

- A. Nausea
- B. Increased bleeding risk**
- C. Weight gain
- D. Joint pain

Long-term use of anticoagulants is primarily associated with an increased risk of bleeding. These medications work by inhibiting the clotting factors in the blood, which effectively reduces the formation of clots to prevent strokes or other thromboembolic events. However, this mechanism also means that the blood's ability to clot is compromised. Consequently, patients can experience hemorrhagic complications, which may manifest as easy bruising, prolonged bleeding from cuts, or more serious bleeding episodes such as gastrointestinal bleeding or intracranial hemorrhages. Monitoring patients on anticoagulants is crucial to manage this side effect, ensuring that the benefits of the medication in preventing thromboembolic events outweigh the risks of bleeding complications. While the other options may be seen in various contexts or conditions, they are not directly related to the core pharmacological action or side effect profile of anticoagulants.

10. What is the most effective way for a patient to use Guaifenesin (Mucinex)?

- A. Take it with a small sip of water
- B. Take it every hour
- C. Take it with a full glass of water**
- D. Take it only at bedtime

Taking Guaifenesin (Mucinex) with a full glass of water is the most effective method because this medication works by loosening and thinning mucus in the airways, making it easier to cough up and expel. Adequate hydration is essential when using Guaifenesin, as it enhances the drug's ability to thin mucus and promotes effective clearance of secretions from the respiratory system. Drinking a full glass of water ensures that the patient remains well-hydrated, which is crucial for the medication's effectiveness and helps in alleviating symptoms of congestion. Other options, while they may not be detrimental, do not provide the same level of benefit in terms of maximizing the efficacy of Guaifenesin. Taking it with just a sip of water may not ensure sufficient hydration, and taking it every hour might lead to an overdose or unnecessary frequent dosing, as the recommended dosing schedule is typically every 4 hours. Additionally, restricting the dose to only bedtime does not align with the intended use of the medication, which is for managing symptoms throughout the day rather than just at night.

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.

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

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