

PSI California Dental Law and Ethics 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

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- 1. What ethical principle should guide your recommendation if a patient requests unnecessary treatment?**
 - A. Ensure financial benefits for the practice**
 - B. Prioritize the patient's well-being and avoid harm**
 - C. Consent to the treatment to maintain patient satisfaction**
 - D. Inform the patient of potential costs**
- 2. What are the three mandatory courses for licensed dental professionals for license renewal every two years?**
 - A. Basic Life Support, California Dental Practice Act, Infection Control**
 - B. Basic Life Support, First Aid, Infection Control**
 - C. California Dental Practice Act, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Infection Control**
 - D. Basic Life Support, California Dental Practice Act, CPR Techniques**
- 3. Does the holder of an inactive license need to pay biennial renewal fees?**
 - A. No, they are exempt**
 - B. Yes, they must continue to pay the required fees**
 - C. Only if they plan to reactivate their license**
 - D. Only if notified by the Board**
- 4. What is required of at least two of the personnel present during procedures on patients under age 13?**
 - A. Certification in first aid**
 - B. Certification in pediatric advanced life support (PALS)**
 - C. Certification in basic life support (BLS)**
 - D. Certification in advanced life support (ALS)**
- 5. Which of the following functions is included in the practice of dental hygiene?**
 - A. Comprehensive treatment planning**
 - B. Assessment and implementation of dental care**
 - C. Placing and removing restorations**
 - D. Administering general anesthesia**

6. What is an exception to checking the CURES database?

- A. Writing a prescription for a non-pain medication**
- B. Writing a non-refillable prescription for a controlled substance that does not exceed a 5-day supply**
- C. Refilling a prescription for a controlled substance**
- D. All prescriptions for controlled substances**

7. If a patient misunderstands the treatment plan, what should be your first action?

- A. Begin treatment anyway**
- B. Repeat the explanation of the treatment plan**
- C. Ask them to sign the consent form regardless**
- D. Move on to the next patient**

8. Under General Supervision, what assessment can an RDA perform?

- A. Extraction of teeth**
- B. Mouth mirror inspection and charting of lesions**
- C. Administering anesthesia**
- D. Radiograph interpretation**

9. What information is NOT required to be recorded when prescribing or administering a schedule II controlled substance?

- A. Patient's name**
- B. Strength of drug**
- C. Physician's personal address**
- D. Reason for drug usage**

10. What is the proper way to correct an error in a patient's paper chart?

- A. Use white-out to cover the error**
- B. Cross it out and write the correction above**
- C. Use a single strikethrough to void the error, then write the correction with initials and date**
- D. Make a note in a separate document**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What ethical principle should guide your recommendation if a patient requests unnecessary treatment?

- A. Ensure financial benefits for the practice**
- B. Prioritize the patient's well-being and avoid harm**
- C. Consent to the treatment to maintain patient satisfaction**
- D. Inform the patient of potential costs**

Prioritizing the patient's well-being and avoiding harm is a fundamental ethical principle in dental practice, as well as in the broader medical field. When a patient requests unnecessary treatment, it is the ethical duty of the dental professional to consider the implications of that treatment—not just for the patient's immediate desires, but for their overall health and well-being. Recommending unnecessary treatment can lead to unnecessary procedures that could expose the patient to risks, complications, or emotional and financial stress. By adhering to the principle of "do no harm," the practitioner aligns their actions with ethical standards that prioritize patient autonomy, health, and informed decision-making. This also builds trust between the practitioner and the patient, reinforcing the practitioner's role as a trusted advisor who has the patient's best interests at heart. Thus, guiding the recommendation based on the principle of prioritizing the patient's well-being ensures that decisions are made in the best interest of the patient, upholding the core tenets of ethical practice in dentistry.

2. What are the three mandatory courses for licensed dental professionals for license renewal every two years?

- A. Basic Life Support, California Dental Practice Act, Infection Control**
- B. Basic Life Support, First Aid, Infection Control**
- C. California Dental Practice Act, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Infection Control**
- D. Basic Life Support, California Dental Practice Act, CPR Techniques**

The correct answer includes the three mandatory courses required for licensed dental professionals in California to renew their licenses every two years: Basic Life Support, California Dental Practice Act, and Infection Control. Basic Life Support training ensures that dental professionals are equipped with the essential skills to respond to medical emergencies and provide life-saving techniques until advanced medical help may arrive. This is critical within the dental setting, where emergencies can occur. Studying the California Dental Practice Act is vital as it informs practitioners of the laws and regulations governing dental practice in California, helping ensure compliance and the provision of safe and effective care. Infection Control training is necessary to maintain hygiene and safety standards in dental practices. This includes understanding protocols for sterilization, preventing cross-contamination, and protecting both patient and provider health. These courses not only enhance the knowledge and skills of dental professionals but also underscore the commitment to patient safety and legal compliance in the practice of dentistry. The other options either contain incorrect course titles or combinations that do not align with the mandatory requirements set forth by California dental regulations.

3. Does the holder of an inactive license need to pay biennial renewal fees?

- A. No, they are exempt**
- B. Yes, they must continue to pay the required fees**
- C. Only if they plan to reactivate their license**
- D. Only if notified by the Board**

The holder of an inactive license is required to pay the biennial renewal fees. This is because maintaining an inactive status still incurs responsibilities similar to an active license, including the obligation to keep the license in good standing. Even though the license may not be in active use, the regulatory framework mandates that inactive license holders continue to fulfill certain financial obligations to ensure that the licensing system remains sustainable and that record-keeping is appropriately maintained. This requirement ensures that those who are licensed, regardless of their activity status, contribute to the regulatory body's operational costs. In this context, holders of inactive licenses are expected to understand these responsibilities to avoid potential issues with licensure when considering reactivation in the future.

4. What is required of at least two of the personnel present during procedures on patients under age 13?

- A. Certification in first aid**
- B. Certification in pediatric advanced life support (PALS)**
- C. Certification in basic life support (BLS)**
- D. Certification in advanced life support (ALS)**

For procedures involving patients under the age of 13, it is essential that at least two members of the dental staff present have certification in pediatric advanced life support (PALS). This requirement is in place due to the unique physiological and psychological needs of younger patients, which differ significantly from those of adults. PALS certification equips healthcare providers with the knowledge and skills necessary to manage pediatric emergencies effectively. This includes recognizing and responding to respiratory and cardiac emergencies specific to children, as well as administering appropriate interventions. Having trained personnel ensures that if a crisis occurs during a procedure, the dental team is prepared to act quickly and effectively to stabilize the young patient. No other certification specifically targets the advanced needs presented in pediatric care to the same level as PALS does. While certifications like basic life support (BLS) and advanced life support (ALS) are valuable, they do not focus exclusively on the intricacies involved in treating young patients. Thus, the presence of staff certified in PALS is critical in promoting a safe environment during dental procedures for children.

5. Which of the following functions is included in the practice of dental hygiene?

- A. Comprehensive treatment planning**
- B. Assessment and implementation of dental care**
- C. Placing and removing restorations**
- D. Administering general anesthesia**

The practice of dental hygiene encompasses a variety of functions, primarily aimed at the prevention and maintenance of oral health. The correct answer focuses on the assessment and implementation of dental care, which are core responsibilities of a dental hygienist. Dental hygienists perform assessments to evaluate the patient's oral health status, including conducting examinations, taking medical histories, and assessing gum disease and dental issues. Following this assessment, they implement dental care plans, which can include preventive procedures such as cleanings and fluoride treatments, as well as providing patient education about oral hygiene practices. On the other hand, comprehensive treatment planning involves the broader scope of patient care that typically requires the oversight of a dentist. Placing and removing restorations and administering general anesthesia are procedures that fall within the scope of dental practice for dentists rather than hygienists. Thus, the focus of the practice of dental hygiene is specifically aligned with the assessment and implementation of care, making this the appropriate choice.

6. What is an exception to checking the CURES database?

- A. Writing a prescription for a non-pain medication**
- B. Writing a non-refillable prescription for a controlled substance that does not exceed a 5-day supply**
- C. Refilling a prescription for a controlled substance**
- D. All prescriptions for controlled substances**

The correct answer is highlighting a specific situation where checking the CURES (Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System) database is not required. In California, when a prescriber writes a non-refillable prescription for a controlled substance that does not exceed a 5-day supply, it is deemed an exception to the mandatory CURES check. This exemption is based on the understanding that a short-term prescription, particularly one that is not refillable, is less likely to contribute to patterns of misuse or abuse that the CURES database aims to monitor. Therefore, prescribers are not obligated to check the CURES database for these low-risk prescriptions, simplifying the process for quick treatment in acute situations. The other options do not align with this exception. Writing a prescription for a non-pain medication is unrelated to CURES checks, as such medications typically don't fall under the controlled substances category monitored by CURES. Additionally, refilling a prescription for a controlled substance or involving all prescriptions for controlled substances would require a CURES check under the regulations, as these situations could indicate potential misuse or require monitoring of the patient's prescription history.

7. If a patient misunderstands the treatment plan, what should be your first action?

- A. Begin treatment anyway**
- B. Repeat the explanation of the treatment plan**
- C. Ask them to sign the consent form regardless**
- D. Move on to the next patient**

When a patient misunderstands the treatment plan, the first and most appropriate action is to repeat the explanation of the treatment plan. Clear communication is crucial in healthcare, particularly in dentistry, where understanding the procedures and treatment options is vital for informed consent. By taking the time to reiterate the treatment plan, you ensure that the patient comprehends the proposed procedures, risks, benefits, and alternatives. This not only fosters trust but also protects the patient's right to make informed decisions about their own care. Ensuring that the patient fully comprehends the treatment plan can help alleviate any concerns or confusion they may have. It can also lead to better patient compliance and satisfaction with their treatment. Informed consent requires that the patient understands what they are consenting to, so providing clarity is essential in maintaining ethical and legal standards in dental practice. This approach aligns with professional responsibilities and helps build a positive patient-provider relationship.

8. Under General Supervision, what assessment can an RDA perform?

- A. Extraction of teeth**
- B. Mouth mirror inspection and charting of lesions**
- C. Administering anesthesia**
- D. Radiograph interpretation**

Under General Supervision, a Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) is permitted to perform specific assessments that fall within their scope of practice. One such task includes a mouth mirror inspection and charting of lesions. This activity allows the RDA to use a mouth mirror to visually examine the oral cavity for any abnormalities or lesions and to document their findings appropriately. The role of an RDA includes supporting the dentist by collecting and recording important information that can inform treatment decisions. The mouth mirror inspection is a valuable procedure that contributes to patient care by identifying potential issues that might need further evaluation by the dentist. Understanding the boundaries of what tasks can be performed under General Supervision is crucial for dental professionals. The key distinction lies in the amount of direct oversight required: General Supervision allows for certain tasks to be completed without the dentist being physically present, provided that those tasks have been prescribed by the dentist. In this case, assessing the oral cavity through an inspection and documenting findings aligns with the RDA's responsibilities and the legal scope of practice. In contrast, tasks such as performing extractions, administering anesthesia, or interpreting radiographs require the presence or direct instruction of a dentist and fall outside the permissible functions of an RDA under General Supervision. These activities have a

9. What information is NOT required to be recorded when prescribing or administering a schedule II controlled substance?

- A. Patient's name**
- B. Strength of drug**
- C. Physician's personal address**
- D. Reason for drug usage**

When prescribing or administering a Schedule II controlled substance, it is essential to document crucial patient and medication information to ensure compliance with legal and safety standards. The patient's name and the strength of the drug are necessary details that help to verify the identity of the patient receiving the medication and to ensure the appropriate dosage is being administered. Additionally, the reason for drug usage is often recorded to provide a clinical justification for the prescription, which is critical for both medical record-keeping and for monitoring the effectiveness and appropriateness of the treatment over time. In contrast, the physician's personal address does not need to be recorded when prescribing or administering these substances. While the prescribing physician's information does need to be noted—such as their Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) number and contact information—specific personal details like a home address are not part of the required documentation. This distinction focuses on protecting the privacy of healthcare providers while maintaining essential records for patient care and regulatory compliance.

10. What is the proper way to correct an error in a patient's paper chart?

- A. Use white-out to cover the error**
- B. Cross it out and write the correction above**
- C. Use a single strikethrough to void the error, then write the correction with initials and date**
- D. Make a note in a separate document**

The correct method for correcting an error in a patient's paper chart is to use a single strikethrough to void the error, then write the correction along with your initials and the date. This practice aligns with proper documentation standards and ethical guidelines in healthcare. Using a single strikethrough allows the original entry to remain legible, which is crucial for maintaining the integrity of the patient's medical record. This transparency is important for continuity of care and ensures that any changes can be traced back to the original entry. By placing your initials and the date next to the correction, you also provide accountability and denote exactly when the amendment was made, which is significant in legal and ethical contexts. Maintaining an accurate and transparent record fosters trust between the patient and the healthcare provider and complies with regulations that govern patient record-keeping. This practice helps avoid confusion regarding the patient's medical history and treatment plans, which is vital for delivering appropriate care.

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://psicaliforniadentallawethics.examzify.com>

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

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