

PSI CALIFORNIA DENTAL LAW AND ETHICS PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence



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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 action should be taken if a provisional crown is dislodged during dental hygiene treatment?**
 - A. Allow the hygienist to proceed with cleaning
 - B. Inform the patient to reschedule the appointment
 - C. Evaluate the provisional before any further action
 - D. Request the hygienist to replace the crown immediately
- 2. What primary responsibility does ADHP have in patient care before a dentist's examination?**
 - A. Conduct complete patient evaluations
 - B. Expose radiographs upon direction of the dentist
 - C. Perform surgical procedures
 - D. Diagnose dental diseases
- 3. What does the principle of non-maleficence represent in dental ethics?**
 - A. To do good and promote the welfare of patients
 - B. To avoid causing harm to patients
 - C. To be fair and equitable in treatment
 - D. To respect patients' rights
- 4. What amount must liability insurance companies report to the Dental Board for settlements related to negligence?**
 - A. \$5,000
 - B. \$10,000
 - C. \$15,000
 - D. \$20,000
- 5. What qualifies as an HIPAA violation?**
 - A. Providing treatment without consent
 - B. Inadvertently disclosing PHI to unauthorized persons
 - C. Not keeping patient records for a minimum number of years
 - D. Failing to file insurance claims on time

- 6. What should not be mixed with medical "red bag" waste according to regulatory guidelines?**
- A. Only extracted teeth
 - B. Amalgam and elemental mercury
 - C. Broken dental instruments
 - D. Only used dental gloves
- 7. If you determine that a patient needs crown lengthening during a procedure but have not previously discussed it, what is the correct action?**
- A. Perform the procedure without discussing
 - B. Stop and discuss the findings with the patient
 - C. Proceed with the crown placement
 - D. Send the patient for specialist consultation
- 8. When must personal protective equipment (PEE) be changed?**
- A. Once a week
 - B. Daily or between patients if they become moist or visibly soiled
 - C. At the end of each day
 - D. Only when visibly torn
- 9. Who can obtain an Elective Facial Cosmetic Surgery (EFCS) permit to administer Botox and fillers?**
- A. Any licensed dentist
 - B. Only pediatric dentists
 - C. Only oral surgeons
 - D. General dentists with advanced training
- 10. What is the appropriate action when a patient requests a refill for ibuprofen for pain in a knee after a dental procedure?**
- A. Refill the prescription as a courtesy
 - B. Refer the patient to their primary care physician
 - C. Provide a general prescription for pain management
 - D. Decline to refill the prescription due to scope of practice limitations

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What action should be taken if a provisional crown is dislodged during dental hygiene treatment?

- A. Allow the hygienist to proceed with cleaning
- B. Inform the patient to reschedule the appointment
- C. Evaluate the provisional before any further action**
- D. Request the hygienist to replace the crown immediately

When a provisional crown becomes dislodged during dental hygiene treatment, the recommended course of action is to evaluate the provisional before taking any further steps. This assessment is critical for several reasons. First, evaluating the provisional allows the dental professional to determine if the crown can be reattached safely or if it has been damaged. A thorough examination could reveal the condition of the tooth underneath, the integrity of the provisional crown, and whether any further dental work needs to be performed before continuing with the hygiene treatment. Additionally, by evaluating the situation, the dental professional gains the necessary information to make informed decisions about patient care. This evaluation can also assure the patient that their oral health is being carefully monitored and managed, which fosters trust and confidence in the dental team. Other options do not prioritize patient safety and care in the same manner. Allowing the hygienist to proceed with cleaning without addressing the dislodged crown could lead to complications, such as further displacement of the crown or damage to the underlying tooth structure. Rescheduling the appointment without evaluation could delay necessary care and lead to increased patient discomfort or complications. Lastly, demanding immediate replacement of the crown without a proper assessment could overlook potential issues with the crown or the tooth it covers, which could adversely affect the treatment

2. What primary responsibility does ADHP have in patient care before a dentist's examination?

- A. Conduct complete patient evaluations
- B. Expose radiographs upon direction of the dentist**
- C. Perform surgical procedures
- D. Diagnose dental diseases

The primary responsibility of an Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner (ADHP) in patient care before a dentist's examination is to expose radiographs upon the direction of the dentist. This task is crucial as it provides the dentist with essential diagnostic information that aids in the identification of dental conditions and in planning treatment for the patient. ADHPs are trained to take radiographs safely and accurately, ensuring that the images obtained are of high quality for proper interpretation by the dentist. This role supports collaboration in the dental team, as it allows the dentist to focus on more complex evaluations and decision-making processes that require their expertise. The other options involve responsibilities that are outside the primary role of an ADHP prior to a dentist's examination. Conducting complete patient evaluations and diagnosing dental diseases require a higher level of autonomy and are typically within the scope of practice for a dentist or a dental professional with advanced training. Performing surgical procedures also falls under the responsibilities that are managed by a dentist, as it involves making clinical decisions that impact the patient's health and well-being. Therefore, exposing radiographs is the correct function that aligns with an ADHP's responsibilities in supporting patient care prior to the dentist's examination.

3. What does the principle of non-maleficence represent in dental ethics?

- A. To do good and promote the welfare of patients
- B. To avoid causing harm to patients**
- C. To be fair and equitable in treatment
- D. To respect patients' rights

The principle of non-maleficence in dental ethics is fundamentally about the obligation to avoid causing harm to patients. This ethical principle emphasizes that healthcare providers, including dentists, must refrain from actions that could result in unnecessary injury or suffering to patients. Within the context of dental practice, this principle guides practitioners to consider the potential risks and negative consequences of their treatments. For example, a dentist must evaluate whether the benefits of a particular procedure outweigh the possible harm or discomfort it may cause to the patient. By adhering to non-maleficence, dentists are reinforcing their commitment to patient safety and well-being, thereby fostering trust in the patient-provider relationship. The other principles mentioned, while relevant to dental ethics, pertain to different aspects of patient care. Promoting welfare aligns more closely with the principle of beneficence, which focuses on doing good for the patient. Fairness and equity in treatment relate to the principle of justice, while respecting patients' rights corresponds to the principle of autonomy. Each of these principles is essential in their own right, but non-maleficence specifically zeros in on the avoidance of harm, which is central to ethical practice in dentistry.

4. What amount must liability insurance companies report to the Dental Board for settlements related to negligence?

- A. \$5,000
- B. \$10,000**
- C. \$15,000
- D. \$20,000

Liability insurance companies are required to report any settlements related to negligence that exceed \$10,000 to the Dental Board. This threshold is established to ensure that the dental board is aware of significant claims against practitioners, which can impact their licensure and practice. Reporting settlements that meet or exceed this amount allows for proper oversight and regulation of dental professionals, helping to maintain standards within the industry and protect public safety. The focus on a \$10,000 threshold is likely connected to recognizing settlements that may indicate a pattern of negligence or malpractice that warrants further investigation by regulatory authorities.

5. What qualifies as an HIPAA violation?

- A. Providing treatment without consent
- B. Inadvertently disclosing PHI to unauthorized persons**
- C. Not keeping patient records for a minimum number of years
- D. Failing to file insurance claims on time

An inadvertent disclosure of Protected Health Information (PHI) to unauthorized persons qualifies as a HIPAA violation because the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) is designed to protect individuals' medical records and personal health information. Under HIPAA, any misuse or unauthorized sharing of PHI can breach patient confidentiality, which is a critical component of the law. When healthcare providers or employees disclose health information without proper authorization, even if unintentional, it undermines the trust that patients place in the healthcare system and can lead to legal repercussions for covered entities. The emphasis is on maintaining confidentiality, and any leak of this sensitive information constitutes a violation. While other situations mentioned in the options may relate to ethical or regulatory concerns in a medical practice, they do not directly pertain to the protection of PHI as outlined by HIPAA, making them irrelevant to the specific definition of a HIPAA violation.

6. What should not be mixed with medical "red bag" waste according to regulatory guidelines?

- A. Only extracted teeth
- B. Amalgam and elemental mercury**
- C. Broken dental instruments
- D. Only used dental gloves

The correct answer is that amalgam and elemental mercury should not be mixed with medical "red bag" waste. This distinction is essential due to the hazardous nature of these materials. Amalgam and elemental mercury are considered toxic and potentially harmful to the environment and human health. Regulations mandate that these substances be handled separately to ensure proper disposal methods that prevent contamination and comply with environmental regulations. In contrast, while extracted teeth, used dental gloves, and broken dental instruments may also require careful disposal, they do not pose the same level of environmental risk as amalgam and mercury. Extracted teeth are typically considered biohazard waste and can be disposed of in red bag waste, while used gloves and instruments must also adhere to safe infection control protocols but do not carry the same toxicity. Therefore, amalgam and elemental mercury are specifically singled out for separate handling due to their hazardous properties.

7. If you determine that a patient needs crown lengthening during a procedure but have not previously discussed it, what is the correct action?

- A. Perform the procedure without discussing
- B. Stop and discuss the findings with the patient**
- C. Proceed with the crown placement
- D. Send the patient for specialist consultation

In a clinical setting, informed consent is a fundamental principle of ethical practice. When a dental professional identifies a need for crown lengthening during a procedure, it is crucial to communicate this to the patient before proceeding. Stopping to discuss the findings with the patient allows for transparency and ensures that the patient is aware of the situation and the reasons behind the recommendation for additional treatment. This discussion gives the patient the opportunity to ask questions, express concerns, and ultimately make an informed decision about their care. Informed consent is not just a legal requirement; it is an ethical obligation to respect the patient's autonomy and their right to participate in decisions regarding their own health and treatment options. By choosing to discuss it with the patient, the dental professional fosters trust and collaboration in the patient-provider relationship, which is essential for effective and ethical dental practice.

8. When must personal protective equipment (PEE) be changed?

- A. Once a week
- B. Daily or between patients if they become moist or visibly soiled**
- C. At the end of each day
- D. Only when visibly torn

Personal protective equipment (PPE) must be changed daily or between patients if it becomes moist or visibly soiled to ensure the highest standards of infection control and safety. This practice is critical in a dental setting where exposure to blood, saliva, and other potentially infectious materials is prevalent. Maintaining the integrity of PPE is essential for preventing cross-contamination and protecting both healthcare workers and patients. If PPE becomes moist, it can compromise its effectiveness in barrier protection, making it crucial to replace it immediately. Additionally, visibly soiled PPE cannot provide adequate protection and must be changed right away to maintain a safe environment. Regularly changing PPE as described aligns with recommended guidelines from health authorities, reinforcing the importance of infection control protocols in dental practices. This practice supports a safe clinical environment and minimizes the risk of spreading pathogens.

9. Who can obtain an Elective Facial Cosmetic Surgery (EFCS) permit to administer Botox and fillers?

- A. Any licensed dentist
- B. Only pediatric dentists
- C. Only oral surgeons**
- D. General dentists with advanced training

The correct option states that only oral surgeons can obtain an Elective Facial Cosmetic Surgery (EFCS) permit to administer Botox and fillers in California. This is due to the specific training and expertise that oral surgeons possess, which is crucial for performing procedures that involve administering cosmetic injectables safely and effectively. Oral surgeons are required to complete extensive training in surgical techniques, anatomy, and patient management, which makes them well-equipped to handle the complexities associated with elective facial cosmetic surgeries. Their background in managing both surgical procedures and complications enhances patient safety, which is a priority in these contexts. In contrast, while general dentists can perform a variety of dental procedures, they may not have the specialized training required for cosmetic injectable procedures unless they pursue additional education and certification specifically related to cosmetic enhancements. Therefore, the distinction is important in ensuring that only those with the appropriate level of training and experience administer cosmetic procedures, thus maintaining standards of care and patient safety in dental practices.

10. What is the appropriate action when a patient requests a refill for ibuprofen for pain in a knee after a dental procedure?

- A. Refill the prescription as a courtesy
- B. Refer the patient to their primary care physician
- C. Provide a general prescription for pain management
- D. Decline to refill the prescription due to scope of practice limitations**

When a patient requests a refill for ibuprofen specifically for pain related to a knee issue after a dental procedure, the most appropriate action is to decline to refill the prescription due to scope of practice limitations. In California, dental professionals are authorized to prescribe medications primarily related to dental conditions and pain management directly associated with oral health. Refilling a prescription for a condition that is outside the dental scope, such as pain in a knee, falls outside the dentist's professional responsibilities and expertise. This ensures that patients receive appropriate care from the right specialists, in this case, their primary care physician, who can better evaluate and treat non-dental issues. Prioritizing safety and focusing on a patient's overall health while maintaining the dentist's professional boundaries is essential. While other choices may seem considerate, they either involve actions outside the dentist's scope of practice or do not address the specific needs of the patient regarding proper management of their knee pain. Thus, declining the refill aligns with legal and ethical standards in dental practice.

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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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