

PTCB COMPOUNDED STERILE PREPARATION TECHNICIAN (CSPT) PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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. How does air flow in a horizontal hood?**
 - A. Air flows vertically from top to bottom
 - B. Air flows back to front across the work area
 - C. Air remains stagnant within the hood
 - D. Air is externally vented to the atmosphere
- 2. What does the term "carcinogenicity" refer to in hazardous medication characteristics?**
 - A. The ability of a substance to cause cancer
 - B. The ability of a substance to cause developmental toxicity
 - C. The ability of a substance to interfere with reproduction
 - D. The ability of a substance to damage DNA
- 3. What should be done before placing a drug in an IV bag?**
 - A. Prep the IV tube
 - B. Check the expiration date
 - C. Administer the drug
 - D. Label the bag
- 4. What is the purpose of surface sampling in compounding sterile preparations?**
 - A. To evaluate visual cleanliness
 - B. To check for equipment function
 - C. To assess microbial contamination
 - D. To measure temperature stability
- 5. What is the recommended cleaning frequency for walls, ceilings, and storage shelving?**
 - A. Weekly
 - B. Monthly
 - C. Quarterly
 - D. Annually

- 6. What is the Beyond Use Date (BUD) for Multi Use Vials?**
- A. 14 Days
 - B. 21 Days
 - C. 28 Days
 - D. 30 Days
- 7. What is the role of Benzodiazepines like Lorazepam in chemotherapy?**
- A. To treat infections
 - B. To reduce anxiety
 - C. To enhance appetite
 - D. To remove toxins
- 8. In the Medium Risk category, which action represents an example?**
- A. Filling device reservoirs with 2 sterile drug products
 - B. Transferring drug volumes from multiple vials into one sterile container
 - C. Compounding hydration fluids in ISO 5 hood
 - D. Performing bedside preparations
- 9. For which purpose are viscous solutions difficult to dispense using a standard syringe?**
- A. Low viscosity
 - B. High viscosity
 - C. Temperature regulation
 - D. Concentration of the solution
- 10. When disposing of hazardous medications, which safety equipment is recommended?**
- A. Single gloves and a mask
 - B. Double chemotherapy gloves and gown
 - C. Regular disposable gloves and an apron
 - D. Only safety goggles

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How does air flow in a horizontal hood?

- A. Air flows vertically from top to bottom
- B. Air flows back to front across the work area**
- C. Air remains stagnant within the hood
- D. Air is externally vented to the atmosphere

In a horizontal hood, the airflow is designed to flow back to front across the work area. This design is crucial for maintaining a sterile environment during the preparation of compounded sterile products. The horizontal airflow system utilizes a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter, which effectively captures airborne contaminants, ensuring that the work surface is provided with a continuous flow of clean air. As the air moves from the back of the hood toward the front, it creates a protective barrier that minimizes the risk of contamination to the sterile products being prepared. This back-to-front airflow pattern helps direct any potential particulate matter away from the compounding area, thereby safeguarding the sterility of the formulations being made. Understanding this airflow is vital for technicians to ensure compliance with aseptic techniques and to optimize the safety and efficacy of compounded sterile preparations.

2. What does the term "carcinogenicity" refer to in hazardous medication characteristics?

- A. The ability of a substance to cause cancer**
- B. The ability of a substance to cause developmental toxicity
- C. The ability of a substance to interfere with reproduction
- D. The ability of a substance to damage DNA

The term "carcinogenicity" specifically refers to the ability of a substance to cause cancer. This characteristic is crucial when evaluating hazardous medications because substances that are carcinogenic pose significant health risks to individuals who are exposed to them, whether in healthcare settings or other environments. Understanding this property allows healthcare professionals to implement appropriate safety measures, such as using protective equipment and following guidelines for handling and disposing of such medications to minimize exposure and potential carcinogenic effects. The other options describe different hazardous characteristics but do not represent carcinogenicity specifically. Developmental toxicity and reproductive interference refer to effects on fetal or reproductive health, while DNA damage relates to mutagenic properties. Each of these characteristics has its own implications and safety concerns, but they are distinct from the definition of carcinogenicity.

3. What should be done before placing a drug in an IV bag?

- A. Prep the IV tube**
- B. Check the expiration date
- C. Administer the drug
- D. Label the bag

Before placing a drug in an IV bag, it is crucial to prep the IV tube. Proper preparation involves ensuring that the IV administration set is ready and that procedures for connecting it to the IV bag are followed correctly. This step helps to maintain aseptic technique and ensures the drug can be administered safely and effectively, minimizing the risk of contamination or complications during the infusion. While checking the expiration date is essential in ensuring the drug's efficacy and safety, this action comes after the initial preparation of the IV bag and tubing. Administering the drug can only take place after it has been properly prepared and placed in the IV bag. Additionally, labeling the bag is a critical step for safety and must be completed before administration, but it follows the actual setting up of the IV bag and not a prior step to placing the drug inside. Thus, prepping the IV tube stands out as the foundational step necessary to ensure safe medication delivery.

4. What is the purpose of surface sampling in compounding sterile preparations?

- A. To evaluate visual cleanliness
- B. To check for equipment function
- C. To assess microbial contamination**
- D. To measure temperature stability

Surface sampling in compounding sterile preparations is performed primarily to assess microbial contamination. This process involves taking samples from surfaces within the sterile compounding environment, such as laminar flow hoods, countertops, and equipment, to identify whether any microorganisms are present. Monitoring for microbial contamination is crucial because it helps ensure that compounded sterile preparations are safe for patient use. If microbial pathogens are detected, it indicates a breach in the aseptic process, which can pose a significant risk to patients who may receive these preparations. While visual cleanliness, equipment function, and temperature stability are important aspects of the overall compounding process, they are not the main goals of surface sampling. Visual cleanliness pertains to the appearance of surfaces and does not necessarily indicate microbial safety. Equipment function relates to how well the machinery operates, and temperature stability involves monitoring environmental conditions within the compounding area. However, neither of these factors directly evaluates the presence of microbial contamination, making them secondary to the primary objective of surface sampling.

5. What is the recommended cleaning frequency for walls, ceilings, and storage shelving?

- A. Weekly
- B. Monthly**
- C. Quarterly
- D. Annually

The recommended cleaning frequency for walls, ceilings, and storage shelving is monthly. This guideline ensures that these surfaces, which can accumulate dust, debris, and potential contaminants, are maintained in a hygienic state. Regular cleaning is crucial in environments such as pharmacies and sterile compounding areas, where maintaining a clean and organized space is vital to prevent contamination and ensure safety. Monthly cleaning helps to prevent the buildup of dirt and microbial growth, which can compromise the integrity of compounded sterile preparations. While more frequent cleaning would provide a higher level of cleanliness, a monthly schedule strikes a balance between practicality and maintaining a clean environment in settings where sterile preparations are handled. This frequency is typically aligned with best practices and regulatory standards in sterile compounding.

6. What is the Beyond Use Date (BUD) for Multi Use Vials?

- A. 14 Days
- B. 21 Days
- C. 28 Days**
- D. 30 Days

The Beyond Use Date (BUD) for multi-use vials is indeed 28 days. This timeframe is established in accordance with guidelines set by the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) and reflects the maximum allowable duration that a multi-use vial can be opened and used before its sterility and potency may no longer be assured. Once a multi-use vial has been punctured, it can be subject to contamination, and thus the BUD ensures that any compounded sterile preparations made using the vial will remain safe and effective up until the specified duration. After 28 days, the risk of microbial contamination increases, hence it is recommended to discard any remaining contents in the vial. Thus, adhering to the 28-day guideline helps mitigate the risks associated with the use of these products in sterile compounding.

7. What is the role of Benzodiazepines like Lorazepam in chemotherapy?

- A. To treat infections
- B. To reduce anxiety**
- C. To enhance appetite
- D. To remove toxins

Benzodiazepines, such as Lorazepam, are primarily used to reduce anxiety, particularly in patients undergoing chemotherapy. Chemotherapy can induce significant anxiety and distress due to its side effects and the overall stress of a cancer diagnosis. Lorazepam works by enhancing the effects of a neurotransmitter called gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA), which helps to calm the nervous system, thereby alleviating feelings of anxiety. Using benzodiazepines in this context allows healthcare providers to help manage the psychological burden that patients may experience during chemotherapy, improving their overall comfort and ability to cope with treatment. This supportive role is essential for patient care, particularly in an oncology setting where emotional wellbeing can influence treatment outcomes and adherence to therapy.

8. In the Medium Risk category, which action represents an example?

- A. Filling device reservoirs with 2 sterile drug products
- B. Transferring drug volumes from multiple vials into one sterile container**
- C. Compounding hydration fluids in ISO 5 hood
- D. Performing bedside preparations

The action of transferring drug volumes from multiple vials into one sterile container represents an example of Medium Risk compounding because it involves a process where multiple sterile products are combined. In this category, the potential for contamination increases as multiple vials are utilized. The Medium Risk level is characterized by the need to prepare sterile compounded products where the compounding process involves multiple components that are typically not used immediately, potentially allowing for a risk of contamination in the preparation environment. This option involves careful manipulation of several sterile drug products to prepare a final compounded solution. It necessitates strict adherence to sterile techniques to ensure that the final product is free from any microbial contamination. In contrast, other options either describe scenarios involving lower levels of risk or situations that do not meet the criteria for Medium Risk compounding. For instance, filling device reservoirs with two sterile drug products may not inherently involve the same level of risk when compared to transferring drug volumes from multiple sources. Compounding hydration fluids in an ISO 5 hood qualifies, but the specific action of mixing multiple vials makes option B the best example of Medium Risk compounding. Bedside preparations, while sterile, are often classified in different risk categories based on context.

9. For which purpose are viscous solutions difficult to dispense using a standard syringe?

- A. Low viscosity
- B. High viscosity**
- C. Temperature regulation
- D. Concentration of the solution

Viscous solutions are characterized by their high resistance to flow, which is a result of their high viscosity. This property makes them difficult to dispense using a standard syringe, as the plunger may require significantly more force to push the thick solution through the narrow opening of the syringe, leading to challenges in accurately measuring and delivering the desired dose. When dealing with solutions that have low viscosity, they flow easily and can be dispensed with minimal effort, making them ideal candidates for use with standard syringes. Temperature regulation does play a role in viscosity; for instance, warming a viscous solution can decrease its viscosity, making dispensing easier, but this does not change the inherent difficulty that arises with high-viscosity solutions. Concentration of the solution can affect its viscosity, but it is not the primary concern when it comes to the dispenser's ability to handle the solution effectively. Therefore, the challenge associated with dispensing is directly linked to the high viscosity of the solution itself.

10. When disposing of hazardous medications, which safety equipment is recommended?

- A. Single gloves and a mask
- B. Double chemotherapy gloves and gown**
- C. Regular disposable gloves and an apron
- D. Only safety goggles

The recommended safety equipment for disposing of hazardous medications includes double chemotherapy gloves and a gown. This is crucial because hazardous drugs can pose significant risks to health care workers if they come into contact with skin or mucous membranes. Double chemotherapy gloves provide an additional layer of protection, significantly reducing the risk of permeation or breakthrough by these medications. Chemotherapy gloves are specifically designed to resist the potentially harmful effects of hazardous agents, which regular gloves may not. Wearing a gown creates an additional barrier that protects the skin and personal clothing from contamination. In a situation where hazardous materials are handled, it's essential for the entire body to be shielded, not just the hands. This is particularly important in a sterile compounding environment where meticulous attention to safety is crucial due to the nature of the compounds involved. While the other options provide some level of protection, they do not meet the comprehensive safety standards required when handling hazardous medications. Regular disposable gloves lack the necessary resistance to hazardous drugs, and using only safety goggles does not offer adequate protection for the body or skin.

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:

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

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