

# PTCB Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE) Practice Test (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. How many digits can the second segment of the NDC contain?**
  - A. 1-2 digits**
  - B. 3-4 digits**
  - C. 2 digits**
  - D. 5-6 digits**
  
- 2. Medicare Part C is commonly known as which type of plan?**
  - A. Combines coverage for Part A and Part B**
  - B. Prescription drug plan**
  - C. Supplemental coverage**
  - D. Managed care plan**
  
- 3. In a nuclear pharmacy, which area is the location where quality assurance testing may be performed?**
  - A. Breakdown room**
  - B. Dispensing area**
  - C. Packaging area**
  - D. Quality control area**
  
- 4. Damaged or expired stock should be returned to the wholesaler for credit.**
  - A. Damaged and expired stock received can be returned to the wholesaler for credit**
  - B. Keep damaged stock on shelf indefinitely**
  - C. Dispose of automatically**
  - D. Ignore and use anyway**
  
- 5. Regarding antibiotic therapy, which practice helps prevent resistance?**
  - A. True**
  - B. False**
  - C. Only for certain antibiotics**
  - D. Only if symptoms persist**

- 6. What is a common side effect of cholinergic agents?**
- A. Hypotension**
  - B. Bradycardia**
  - C. Diarrhea**
  - D. Dry mouth**
- 7. What is the generic name for Ternomin?**
- A. Atenol**
  - B. Atenolol**
  - C. Amoxicillin**
  - D. Acetaminophen**
- 8. Under the Controlled Substances Act, disposal of used or expired controlled medications may be returned to:**
- A. The manufacturer**
  - B. The local landfill**
  - C. The patient**
  - D. The pharmacy trash**
- 9. Sulfonamides should be taken with plenty of water. Which option best reflects this guidance?**
- A. With plenty of water**
  - B. With antacids**
  - C. On an empty stomach**
  - D. With dairy**
- 10. Which drug is a Schedule III substance?**
- A. Oxycodone**
  - B. Marinol**
  - C. Diazepam**
  - D. LSD**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. How many digits can the second segment of the NDC contain?**

- A. 1-2 digits
- B. 3-4 digits**
- C. 2 digits
- D. 5-6 digits

The NDC is a three-segment code: the first segment is the labeler (manufacturer), the second is the product code, and the third is the package code. Formats have varied over time, including a 10-digit form like 5-4-1 and an 11-digit form like 5-3-2. Because the middle segment changes to accommodate these formats, it can be either 3 digits or 4 digits. For example, 12345-6789-0 shows a 4-digit middle segment, while 12345-678-90 shows a 3-digit middle segment.

**2. Medicare Part C is commonly known as which type of plan?**

- A. Combines coverage for Part A and Part B**
- B. Prescription drug plan
- C. Supplemental coverage
- D. Managed care plan

Medicare Part C is a Medicare Advantage plan offered by private insurers that brings Part A and Part B benefits together in one package. The key idea is that instead of having hospital coverage (Part A) and medical coverage (Part B) as separate pieces under Original Medicare, Part C provides both parts through a single plan. Many Part C plans also include extra benefits and may cover prescription drugs, but the defining feature is the combination of A and B into one plan. For contrast, prescription drugs are covered by Part D, Medigap provides supplemental coverage to Original Medicare, and while Part C plans are often managed care plans, the most direct description of Part C is that it bundles A and B.

**3. In a nuclear pharmacy, which area is the location where quality assurance testing may be performed?**

- A. Breakdown room
- B. Dispensing area
- C. Packaging area**
- D. Quality control area

Quality assurance testing is about ensuring the finished radiopharmaceutical is ready for patient use, with correct dose, labeling, expiration, and packaging integrity. In a nuclear pharmacy, the packaging area is where the final product is sealed, labeled with patient information, dose, lot number, and expiration date, and where any packaging defects are detected before distribution. Checking these attributes at this stage ensures the product that leaves the pharmacy is safe, traceable, and compliant. The breakdown room handles preparation from bulk materials, which is an earlier production step; the dispensing area deals with handing out doses to patients and may occur after QA is completed; a dedicated quality control area is typically a lab for analytical testing. But for final release and proper packaging verification, the packaging area is the most appropriate place for QA activities.

**4. Damaged or expired stock should be returned to the wholesaler for credit.**

**A. Damaged and expired stock received can be returned to the wholesaler for credit**

**B. Keep damaged stock on shelf indefinitely**

**C. Dispose of automatically**

**D. Ignore and use anyway**

Damaged or expired stock should be quarantined and returned to the wholesaler for credit to protect patients and minimize losses. When stock is damaged or past its expiration, it must be removed from general shelves, documented with batch/lot numbers, quantities, and expiration dates, and set aside in a designated area. This helps ensure it isn't inadvertently dispensed and allows you to recover some cost through supplier credit. Next, involve the appropriate process: contact the supplier to obtain a return authorization, ship or arrange pickup for the items, and keep copies of all documentation. Update inventory records to reflect the return and the corresponding credit, and adjust stock levels so your counts are accurate moving forward. Avoid keeping damaged stock on the shelf, disposing of it without authorization, or using expired items, as these actions risk patient safety and run afoul of regulations and standard pharmacy procedures.

**5. Regarding antibiotic therapy, which practice helps prevent resistance?**

**A. True**

**B. False**

**C. Only for certain antibiotics**

**D. Only if symptoms persist**

The important idea is that finishing the full course of an antibiotic helps prevent resistance. If you stop early because you feel better, some bacteria may survive. Those survivors can carry or develop resistance traits, and the drug may not have been present long enough to fully eradicate the infection. This creates selective pressure that favors resistant strains, making future infections harder to treat. So the statement suggesting that stopping early helps prevent resistance is not correct. The best practice is to take the antibiotic exactly as prescribed for the full duration, use the right agent for the infection, and avoid saving leftovers or using antibiotics without a prescription. Resistance risk isn't limited to certain antibiotics or to scenarios where symptoms persist; it's driven by how antibiotics are used in any situation.

## 6. What is a common side effect of cholinergic agents?

- A. Hypotension
- B. Bradycardia
- C. Diarrhea**
- D. Dry mouth

Cholinergic agents stimulate muscarinic receptors, boosting parasympathetic activity. In the gastrointestinal tract this markedly increases motility and secretions, so diarrhea is a common and expected side effect. Dry mouth would be opposite to cholinergic action, since these drugs increase secretions rather than dry them; bradycardia or hypotension can occur due to vagal effects but are not as consistently or characteristically seen as diarrhea.

## 7. What is the generic name for Ternomin?

- A. Atenol**
- B. Atenolol
- C. Amoxicillin
- D. Acetaminophen

Understanding how brand names map to generic names helps you quickly identify the standard drug. Brand names like Ternomin refer to an active substance, and the generic name is the nonproprietary designation. For many beta-blockers, the generic name ends with a familiar -olol suffix. The correct generic form for this brand is atenolol, the full, proper spelling that identifies it as a beta-blocker. Atenolol differs from atenol, which is incomplete and not the correct generic name. The other two options correspond to entirely different drugs (amoxicillin is an antibiotic, acetaminophen is a pain reliever/fever reducer), so they don't fit. Remember that the generic name is the standardized name used in prescriptions and references, with the appropriate suffix helping you recognize the drug class.

## 8. Under the Controlled Substances Act, disposal of used or expired controlled medications may be returned to:

- A. The manufacturer**
- B. The local landfill
- C. The patient
- D. The pharmacy trash

Disposal of controlled substances must go through an approved channel to prevent diversion and environmental harm. The manufacturer may provide or participate in a take-back or destruction program, allowing used or expired medications to be returned for proper disposal with proper documentation. This ensures the drugs are destroyed safely, typically through incineration, and that records are kept in accordance with the CSA. Disposing in a local landfill or pharmacy trash is not permitted for controlled substances, and patients are not the appropriate endpoint for disposal in a standard setting. These routes can lead to environmental contamination and potential misuse.

**9. Sulfonamides should be taken with plenty of water. Which option best reflects this guidance?**

- A. With plenty of water**
- B. With antacids**
- C. On an empty stomach**
- D. With dairy**

Sulfonamides can crystallize in the urine if fluid intake is low, which can irritate the kidneys or lead to stone formation. Taking the medication with plenty of water helps keep the drug dissolved, supports higher urine flow, and promotes safer renal clearance during therapy. The other scenarios don't meet this hydration goal and can introduce issues: antacids don't provide the hydration benefit and can affect absorption or drug interactions; dairy doesn't serve the hydration purpose and isn't necessary for this class; taking on an empty stomach isn't about preventing crystalluria and may cause GI upset. The key point is to take sulfonamides with a full glass of water and stay well hydrated during treatment.

**10. Which drug is a Schedule III substance?**

- A. Oxycodone**
- B. Marinol**
- C. Diazepam**
- D. LSD**

Drug scheduling by the DEA is based on medical use, potential for abuse, and dependence liability. A Schedule III substance has an accepted medical use and a potential for abuse and dependence that is moderate to low (or high psychological dependence with moderate physical dependence) compared with higher schedules. Marinol contains dronabinol (synthetic THC) and is used medically to treat chemotherapy-induced nausea and to stimulate appetite in AIDS patients. It has an accepted medical use and a lower abuse and dependence risk than Schedule II drugs, which places it in Schedule III. By contrast, oxycodone (a strong opioid) is Schedule II due to high abuse potential, diazepam is Schedule IV with a lower but still notable risk, and LSD is Schedule I with no accepted medical use.

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://ptcbptce.examzify.com>**

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

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