

# Registered Nursing (RN) Issues 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. Under the Leapfrog Group's never events policy, what action should the hospital take when wrong-site surgery occurs?**
  - A. Apologize to the family and caregivers of the patient**
  - B. Report the event to The Joint Commission**
  - C. Agree to pay all costs related to the condition of the patient**
  - D. Refuse to discuss the event with any party**
  
- 2. Which term describes any action that places the client or the nurse in fear of harmful or offensive contact without consent?**
  - A. Battery**
  - B. Negligence**
  - C. Malpractice**
  - D. Assault**
  
- 3. Which term describes secondary prevention?**
  - A. Primary prevention**
  - B. Tertiary prevention**
  - C. Quaternary prevention**
  - D. Secondary prevention**
  
- 4. What is the goal of Healthy People 2020?**
  - A. To improve hospital funding and access to care.**
  - B. To eliminate health disparities related to race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.**
  - C. To promote universal electronic health records adoption.**
  - D. To reduce healthcare costs through price controls.**
  
- 5. Which level of health care focuses on prenatal care, infant care, and nutrition counseling?**
  - A. Secondary health care**
  - B. Tertiary health care**
  - C. Primary health care**
  - D. Population-based health care**

- 6. In the research process, which activity best demonstrates problem identification?**
- A. Preparing questionnaires**
  - B. Reviewing literature**
  - C. Obtaining ethics approval**
  - D. Identifying the problem**
- 7. Which concept is essential for identifying the underlying causes of sentinel events in a hospital?**
- A. Trend analysis**
  - B. Quality assurance**
  - C. Continuous quality improvement**
  - D. Root cause analysis**
- 8. The nursing data validation error described as failing to validate data falls into which category?**
- A. Labeling**
  - B. Clustering**
  - C. Data collection**
  - D. Interpretation**
- 9. What is the goal of Healthy People 2020?**
- A. To improve overall access to healthcare services**
  - B. To reduce obesity by half**
  - C. To increase vaccination coverage nationwide**
  - D. To eliminate health disparities related to race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status**
- 10. Which point is included in the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) document regarding core principles of care for transgender patients?**
- A. Informed consent**
  - B. Mandatory hormone therapy**
  - C. Denying patient autonomy**
  - D. Gatekeeping treatment decisions**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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1. Under the Leapfrog Group's never events policy, what action should the hospital take when wrong-site surgery occurs?
  - A. Apologize to the family and caregivers of the patient
  - B. Report the event to The Joint Commission**
  - C. Agree to pay all costs related to the condition of the patient
  - D. Refuse to discuss the event with any party

When a wrong-site surgery occurs, the emphasis is on transparent accountability and formal investigation to prevent recurrence. The Leapfrog Group's never events policy expects hospitals to report such events to the appropriate national safety and accreditation bodies. Reporting to The Joint Commission ensures the incident is documented within the formal sentinel-event framework, triggering a root-cause analysis and targeted improvements to system processes. This external reporting supports accountability, learning, and public safety, rather than leaving the event to be discussed privately or handled only within the family. While offering an apology and communicating with the patient and family is important for trust and disclosure, it does not by itself satisfy the policy's requirement for formal external reporting. Deciding to pay all costs or to refuse discussion would not align with the mandated safety and transparency procedures designed to prevent future occurrences.

2. Which term describes any action that places the client or the nurse in fear of harmful or offensive contact without consent?
  - A. Battery
  - B. Negligence
  - C. Malpractice
  - D. Assault**

Assault is an intentional action that creates a reasonable fear of imminent harmful or offensive contact in another person, even if no contact actually occurs. In healthcare, a gesture or threat—like raising a tool toward a patient or verbally threatening harm—that makes the patient fear they will be touched without consent qualifies as assault. The key is the fear of contact and the lack of consent, not whether any actual touching happens. Battery, by contrast, is the actual harmful or offensive touching without consent. Negligence and malpractice involve failing to meet standard care and causing harm, but they are not about threatening or frightening a patient. So the term described is assault.

### 3. Which term describes secondary prevention?

- A. Primary prevention
- B. Tertiary prevention
- C. Quaternary prevention
- D. Secondary prevention**

Secondary prevention focuses on detecting disease early and preventing its progression. It happens after a condition has begun but before it causes significant symptoms or complications, using screening and timely intervention to keep the illness from worsening. Think of activities like mammograms, colonoscopies, or routine blood pressure checks in people without symptoms—these aim to catch problems early so treatment can be more effective and disability is minimized. By contrast, primary prevention prevents the disease from occurring in the first place (immunizations, healthy lifestyle), while tertiary prevention reduces disability once a disease is established (rehabilitation after a stroke). Quaternary prevention is about avoiding unnecessary or harmful medical interventions. So the concept described by secondary prevention is early detection and intervention to prevent progression.

### 4. What is the goal of Healthy People 2020?

- A. To improve hospital funding and access to care.
- B. To eliminate health disparities related to race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.**
- C. To promote universal electronic health records adoption.
- D. To reduce healthcare costs through price controls.

Healthy People 2020 centers on reducing health disparities and achieving health equity for all groups. It aims to improve the health of everyone by addressing factors that influence health outcomes—such as social and economic conditions, access to preventive services, and the environment—so that differences in health status across race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and other factors are minimized. This overarching focus on eliminating disparities—especially those tied to race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status—drives the initiative. The other options describe specific aims that aren't the primary focus of Healthy People 2020: funding and access in hospitals, universal electronic health record adoption, and reducing costs through price controls.

**5. Which level of health care focuses on prenatal care, infant care, and nutrition counseling?**

- A. Secondary health care**
- B. Tertiary health care**
- C. Primary health care**
- D. Population-based health care**

Primary health care focuses on accessible, continuous care for individuals and families, covering health promotion, disease prevention, and basic treatment in the community. Prenatal care, infant care, and nutrition counseling are classic examples of this level because they are preventive and early-intervention services delivered in non-hospital, community-based settings to maintain maternal and child health. They emphasize regular monitoring, education, and guidance that support families over time and across different life stages. Secondary health care involves more specialized services typically provided after a referral in hospital settings, while tertiary care is highly specialized treatment in advanced centers. Population-based health care concerns public health measures for groups, not the level of care for an individual patient.

**6. In the research process, which activity best demonstrates problem identification?**

- A. Preparing questionnaires**
- B. Reviewing literature**
- C. Obtaining ethics approval**
- D. Identifying the problem**

The key idea here is recognizing and clearly stating the issue that needs investigation. Problem identification is the starting point of a research project: it involves noticing a gap or question that matters in practice, describing it in a precise, answerable way, and defining the purpose of the study. Once the problem is clearly identified, you know what you're trying to learn, who you'll study, and what outcomes to measure, which then shapes your entire design and methods. Preparing questionnaires comes after the problem is defined and is a tool to collect data. Reviewing literature helps you understand what is already known and what gaps exist, which can inform refining the problem, but it does not itself constitute identifying the problem. Obtaining ethics approval is a procedural step that occurs once the study plan is in place and involves protecting participants, not pinpointing the research issue.

**7. Which concept is essential for identifying the underlying causes of sentinel events in a hospital?**

- A. Trend analysis**
- B. Quality assurance**
- C. Continuous quality improvement**
- D. Root cause analysis**

The essential approach is root cause analysis—digging beyond what happened to why it happened, at the system and process level. When a sentinel event occurs, the goal isn't to assign blame to an individual but to uncover the underlying factors that allowed the event to occur. Root cause analysis uses structured methods to trace the incident back through contributing factors across people, procedures, equipment, environment, and policies, so you can address the true sources of risk. The outcome is a set of corrective actions designed to prevent recurrence, often followed by monitoring to ensure effectiveness. Other concepts focus on different aspects: trend analysis looks at patterns over time to identify areas needing attention but doesn't explain the specific causal chain of a single event; quality assurance centers on meeting standards and evaluating performance, not the in-depth causative investigation; continuous quality improvement is the ongoing effort to enhance safety and quality, within which root cause analysis is the tool used to understand and fix underlying problems.

**8. The nursing data validation error described as failing to validate data falls into which category?**

- A. Labeling**
- B. Clustering**
- C. Data collection**
- D. Interpretation**

Data validation hinges on correctly identifying each data element with the right label, so the value can be understood in its proper context. When validation fails because you can't confirm what a data value represents, that points to a labeling error—the data are recorded under an incorrect name or tag, or the label is ambiguous, making it unclear what the measurement actually refers to. For example, recording a heart rate under the label for respiratory rate makes it impossible to validate the data against expected values and meanings. Labeling errors undermine traceability and meaning, blocking accurate validation against standards and chart definitions. Other categories involve how data are collected, how items are grouped, or how the data are interpreted, but they don't address the mismatch between the data and its identifier, which is the essence of a labeling issue.

**9. What is the goal of Healthy People 2020?**

- A. To improve overall access to healthcare services**
- B. To reduce obesity by half**
- C. To increase vaccination coverage nationwide**
- D. To eliminate health disparities related to race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status**

Healthy People 2020 is driven by a commitment to health equity and reducing differences in health outcomes among different population groups. Its central aim is to eliminate health disparities related to race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status, while improving health for all groups. Other goals like improving access to care, lowering obesity, or boosting vaccination coverage are important components and help advance the overall mission, but they are specific targets that support the broader objective of achieving health equity. That broader focus is why this option best captures what Healthy People 2020 is trying to accomplish.

**10. Which point is included in the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) document regarding core principles of care for transgender patients?**

- A. Informed consent**
- B. Mandatory hormone therapy**
- C. Denying patient autonomy**
- D. Gatekeeping treatment decisions**

The main idea here is patient autonomy expressed through informed consent. WPATH standards emphasize that transgender health care should be guided by giving patients clear, comprehensive information about what a treatment involves—the benefits, risks, alternatives, and potential outcomes—so they can make voluntary, well-informed decisions about their own care. This approach reduces gatekeeping and respects the patient's right to choose, rather than requiring physician-imposed conditions or mandating therapy. The other options clash with this principle: mandating hormone therapy overrides individual goals, denying autonomy contradicts patient-centered care, and gatekeeping treatment decisions stands in opposition to informed, collaborative decision making.

## 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://rnissues.examzify.com>**

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

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