

Relias Emergency Department Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	6
Answers	9
Explanations	11
Next Steps	17

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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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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!

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Questions

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- 1. What is the primary concern in a patient with a tension pneumothorax?**
 - A. Impacted earwax**
 - B. Impaired ventilation and cardiovascular collapse**
 - C. Dehydration and electrolyte imbalance**
 - D. Intestinal blockage**

- 2. What is a common indicator of shock when monitoring vital signs?**
 - A. Increased blood pressure**
 - B. Increased respiratory rate**
 - C. Bradycardia**
 - D. Severe headaches**

- 3. You observe a novice nurse leaving the room with unlabeled specimen tubes after a blood draw. What should you do next?**
 - A. Inform the nursing supervisor**
 - B. Re-educate the nurse and redraw the labs**
 - C. Label the specimens yourself**
 - D. Ignore it since it's a minor error**

- 4. What is the primary goal when managing a patient with respiratory failure?**
 - A. To improve blood sugar levels**
 - B. To ensure adequate ventilation and oxygenation**
 - C. To stabilize blood pressure**
 - D. To expedite surgical intervention**

- 5. Which assessment finding is commonly associated with a tension pneumothorax?**
 - A. Decreased breath sounds**
 - B. Distended neck veins**
 - C. Hypotension**
 - D. Chest pain**

- 6. Your patient has just had a paracentesis during which 5 liters of fluid were removed. Which assessment is the priority?**
- A. Heart rate**
 - B. Blood pressure**
 - C. Respiratory rate**
 - D. Temperature**
- 7. A pregnant patient at 8 weeks presents with vaginal bleeding. RhoGAM will be administered for which situation?**
- A. Mother is Rh positive**
 - B. Mother is Rh negative**
 - C. Mother has a history of miscarriages**
 - D. Mother is experiencing labor**
- 8. Which is an appropriate response for a nurse when encountering a patient with chemical burns?**
- A. Immediately apply a topical antibiotic**
 - B. Ensure the source of the chemical is removed before treatment**
 - C. Advise the patient to wait to see if the symptoms improve**
 - D. Use cotton to cover the burns**
- 9. What is the primary purpose of emergency department triage?**
- A. To prioritize patient care based on the severity of their condition**
 - B. To assign hospital beds to admitted patients**
 - C. To determine the length of patient stay**
 - D. To manage hospital inventory**
- 10. In a situation where a patient exhibits signs of anaphylaxis, what is a critical first response?**
- A. Assess age and medical history**
 - B. Administer antihistamines immediately**
 - C. Provide intravenous corticosteroids**
 - D. Administer epinephrine immediately**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the primary concern in a patient with a tension pneumothorax?

- A. Impacted earwax**
- B. Impaired ventilation and cardiovascular collapse**
- C. Dehydration and electrolyte imbalance**
- D. Intestinal blockage**

The primary concern in a patient with a tension pneumothorax is impaired ventilation and cardiovascular collapse. In this condition, air enters the pleural space and cannot escape, leading to increased pressure within the thoracic cavity. This elevated pressure compromises the lung on the affected side, resulting in a significant reduction in lung capacity and impaired oxygen exchange. Additionally, the increasing pressure can push the mediastinum (the central part of the chest that contains the heart and great vessels) towards the opposite side, further obstructing venous return to the heart and resulting in decreased cardiac output. This combination of impaired ventilation and cardiovascular compromise poses an immediate threat to the patient's life, requiring prompt recognition and intervention. Other conditions such as impacted earwax, dehydration and electrolyte imbalance, or intestinal blockage do not directly relate to the acute physiological changes and dangers presented by a tension pneumothorax, which is critical to recognize in emergency settings where rapid treatment is necessary.

2. What is a common indicator of shock when monitoring vital signs?

- A. Increased blood pressure**
- B. Increased respiratory rate**
- C. Bradycardia**
- D. Severe headaches**

An increased respiratory rate is a common indicator of shock when monitoring vital signs due to the body's physiological response to decreased perfusion and oxygen delivery to tissues. When a person is in shock, the body may attempt to compensate for the lack of adequate blood flow by increasing the respiratory rate, which helps to improve oxygen uptake. This compensatory mechanism aims to maintain oxygen levels in the blood, especially when organs are not receiving sufficient blood flow. In various types of shock (e.g., hypovolemic, cardiogenic, or septic), the body tends to activate stress responses that lead to an increase in respiration. This is crucial because improved oxygenation can help mitigate tissue damage and support vital organ function. Along with changes in heart rate and blood pressure, monitoring the respiratory rate provides important insight into the patient's status and can help in the early identification of shock.

3. You observe a novice nurse leaving the room with unlabeled specimen tubes after a blood draw. What should you do next?

- A. Inform the nursing supervisor**
- B. Re-educate the nurse and redraw the labs**
- C. Label the specimens yourself**
- D. Ignore it since it's a minor error**

The most appropriate action in this situation is to re-educate the nurse and redraw the labs. Proper labeling of specimen tubes is crucial in ensuring patient safety and test accuracy. Unlabeled specimens can lead to misidentification, incorrect results, and potentially dangerous clinical decisions. By taking the time to re-educate the novice nurse, you not only address the immediate issue of the unlabeled specimens but also provide an opportunity for learning and reinforcing proper protocols. This helps to instill good practices and promotes accountability in clinical settings. Redrawing the labs ensures that the correct specimens are collected and handled appropriately, maintaining the integrity of the lab results and ultimately supporting patient care. Informing the nursing supervisor, while sometimes necessary, doesn't directly address the immediate concern of the unlabeled specimens and may not provide the novice nurse with the guidance needed at that moment. Labeling the specimens yourself could be seen as taking over the nurse's responsibilities rather than empowering them to learn from the situation. Ignoring the error is not a safe or responsible choice, as even small mistakes in healthcare can have significant consequences.

4. What is the primary goal when managing a patient with respiratory failure?

- A. To improve blood sugar levels**
- B. To ensure adequate ventilation and oxygenation**
- C. To stabilize blood pressure**
- D. To expedite surgical intervention**

The primary goal when managing a patient with respiratory failure is to ensure adequate ventilation and oxygenation. This condition arises when the respiratory system fails in gas exchange, meaning that the body is not able to effectively take in oxygen or remove carbon dioxide. When a patient is in respiratory failure, their ability to maintain adequate oxygen saturation and carbon dioxide elimination is compromised, leading to potential organ dysfunction and other serious complications. Thus, interventions focus on restoring normal respiratory function. This may include administering supplemental oxygen, utilizing mechanical ventilation if necessary, and other supportive measures to assist or replace the patient's own respiratory efforts. Prioritizing ventilation and oxygenation directly addresses the life-threatening aspects of respiratory failure, making it essential for patient survival and recovery. While other options like blood sugar management, blood pressure stabilization, and surgical intervention may be relevant in different clinical scenarios, they are not the primary focus in the immediate management of respiratory failure. The foremost action is always to ensure that the patient has adequate ventilation and oxygen, as this directly addresses the critical nature of their condition.

5. Which assessment finding is commonly associated with a tension pneumothorax?

- A. Decreased breath sounds**
- B. Distended neck veins**
- C. Hypotension**
- D. Chest pain**

A tension pneumothorax occurs when air enters the pleural space and cannot escape, leading to increased pressure within the thoracic cavity. This increased pressure can have several significant effects on the body, impacting cardiovascular and respiratory function. Distended neck veins are a classic sign associated with a tension pneumothorax. This distension occurs because the increased pressure in the thoracic cavity compresses the superior vena cava, leading to impaired venous return to the heart. As a result, the blood vessels in the neck may become engorged and appear distended. This finding is particularly important as it indicates that the tension in the thorax is severe enough to affect cardiac output and venous return. In contrast, while decreased breath sounds, hypotension, and chest pain can also be present in cases of tension pneumothorax, they are not as definitive or direct indicators as distended neck veins. Decreased breath sounds may occur due to lung collapse, and hypotension can result from impaired cardiac function or volume loss, while chest pain is nonspecific and can be attributed to various lung or cardiac conditions. The presence of distended neck veins provides a more immediate and observable indicator of respiratory and hemodynamic compromise resulting from tension pneumothorax.

6. Your patient has just had a paracentesis during which 5 liters of fluid were removed. Which assessment is the priority?

- A. Heart rate**
- B. Blood pressure**
- C. Respiratory rate**
- D. Temperature**

After a paracentesis, particularly one involving the removal of a significant volume like 5 liters, monitoring blood pressure becomes a critical priority. The procedure can lead to changes in intravascular volume, which may result in hypotension. This is especially important because the rapid removal of fluid can cause vasodilation and lead to potential hypovolemic shock if the body cannot compensate adequately. Assessing blood pressure regularly will help identify any significant drops that could indicate hypovolemia or other complications post-procedure. While monitoring heart rate, respiratory rate, and temperature is also important in post-procedural care, blood pressure is vital to ensure that the patient remains hemodynamically stable. Therefore, prioritizing blood pressure assessment is essential to effectively manage and react to any complications that may arise following the paracentesis.

7. A pregnant patient at 8 weeks presents with vaginal bleeding. RhoGAM will be administered for which situation?

- A. Mother is Rh positive**
- B. Mother is Rh negative**
- C. Mother has a history of miscarriages**
- D. Mother is experiencing labor**

In cases where a pregnant patient is Rh negative, administering RhoGAM is crucial in order to prevent Rh sensitization, which can occur if the fetus is Rh positive. If an Rh negative mother is exposed to Rh positive blood, either during pregnancy or delivery, her immune system may start to produce antibodies against the Rh factor. This can create complications in future pregnancies, leading to hemolytic disease of the newborn, where the body attacks the red blood cells of the Rh positive fetus. At 8 weeks of gestation, the administration of RhoGAM is particularly important when there is vaginal bleeding, as this may indicate a risk of mixed blood exposure. By administering RhoGAM, healthcare providers can ensure that the mother's immune system does not develop these antibodies, thereby protecting both the current and future pregnancies from the potential complications associated with Rh incompatibility.

8. Which is an appropriate response for a nurse when encountering a patient with chemical burns?

- A. Immediately apply a topical antibiotic**
- B. Ensure the source of the chemical is removed before treatment**
- C. Advise the patient to wait to see if the symptoms improve**
- D. Use cotton to cover the burns**

When dealing with a patient who has chemical burns, it is crucial to ensure the removal of the source of the chemical before any treatment is administered. This is because the continued presence of the hazardous material can exacerbate the injury and lead to further skin damage or systemic toxicity. In the case of chemical burns, the priority is to prevent additional harm by stopping the exposure. This typically involves removing contaminated clothing, flushing the affected area with copious amounts of water, and ensuring that the chemical does not continue to interact with the skin. Once the source has been addressed, appropriate treatment, such as cleansing the area and possibly using topical antibiotics, can be appropriately initiated. Addressing the source first mitigates the risk of complications and aids in the overall management of the chemical burn injury.

9. What is the primary purpose of emergency department triage?

- A. To prioritize patient care based on the severity of their condition**
- B. To assign hospital beds to admitted patients**
- C. To determine the length of patient stay**
- D. To manage hospital inventory**

The primary purpose of emergency department triage is to prioritize patient care based on the severity of their condition. Triage is a critical process in emergency medicine that ensures patients receive timely and appropriate care. In a busy emergency department, where multiple patients may present simultaneously with varying degrees of urgency, triage helps healthcare providers assess and categorize patients based on their medical needs. This process allows clinicians to focus resources on those who require immediate attention, such as individuals with life-threatening conditions, while ensuring that those with less urgent situations still receive timely care. By effectively triaging patients, emergency departments can improve outcomes and manage flow more efficiently, ultimately leading to better care for all patients within the department. The other options do not accurately reflect the primary intent of triage. Assigning hospital beds involves logistical aspects of patient flow and hospital operations, determining the length of stay pertains to discharge planning, and managing hospital inventory is related more to resource management than to immediate patient care priorities. Thus, while these functions are important in the overall operation of a healthcare facility, they are not the core focus of the triage process in the emergency department.

10. In a situation where a patient exhibits signs of anaphylaxis, what is a critical first response?

- A. Assess age and medical history**
- B. Administer antihistamines immediately**
- C. Provide intravenous corticosteroids**
- D. Administer epinephrine immediately**

In cases of anaphylaxis, the most critical first response is to administer epinephrine immediately. Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction that can occur rapidly. The symptoms can include difficulty breathing, swelling of the throat, a rapid drop in blood pressure, and hives, among others. Epinephrine is the first-line treatment for anaphylaxis because it acts quickly to constrict blood vessels, which raises blood pressure, dilates airways, and reduces swelling. This rapid intervention is essential to counteract the severe, systemic effects of anaphylaxis and can be lifesaving. Other approaches, such as assessing a patient's age and medical history, administering antihistamines, or providing intravenous corticosteroids, may be part of a comprehensive treatment plan but are not immediate priorities. Antihistamines and corticosteroids can help in managing symptoms but do not act fast enough to address the critical, life-threatening symptoms of anaphylaxis. The effectiveness and safety of epinephrine in emergency situations make it the clearly defined first step in managing anaphylaxis.

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://reliasemergencydepartment.examzify.com>

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

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