

# ScribeAmerica Hospitalist Practice Exam (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

- 1. What antibiotic would likely be included for managing right lower extremity cellulitis?**
  - A. Pradaxa**
  - B. Keflex**
  - C. Paxil**
  - D. Phenergan**
- 2. In the example of the female patient presenting with abdominal pain, what was the location of her pain?**
  - A. LUQ**
  - B. RUQ**
  - C. LLQ**
  - D. RLQ**
- 3. What does a rating of 2+ for a pulse indicate?**
  - A. Normal**
  - B. Weak**
  - C. Strong**
  - D. Absent**
- 4. For the HPI of a patient with RLQ abdominal pain, how does it meet level 3 billing criteria?**
  - A. Includes at least two elements**
  - B. Meets the five criteria for abdominal pain**
  - C. Contains a clear description of the onset**
  - D. Has a timeline and relevant history**
- 5. What should be the primary focus in the care of a patient with a small bowel obstruction until recovery?**
  - A. Regular meals**
  - B. Medications only**
  - C. Close monitoring**
  - D. Patient education**

- 6. What common skin condition can develop in bed-bound patients due to lack of position changes?**
- A. Psoriasis**
  - B. Eczema**
  - C. Ulcer**
  - D. Dermatitis**
- 7. What is the primary purpose of administering TPA in a medical setting?**
- A. To dissolve blood clots**
  - B. To increase heart rate**
  - C. To reduce inflammation**
  - D. To manage pain**
- 8. Which symptom is NOT typically part of a respiratory assessment?**
- A. SOB (shortness of breath)**
  - B. Palpitations**
  - C. Wheezing**
  - D. Septum production**
- 9. What is the main therapeutic effect of antidepressants?**
- A. Reduce seizures**
  - B. Reduce pain**
  - C. Improve mood**
  - D. Control inflammation**
- 10. Before performing imaging studies with IV contrast due to a positive D-Dimer, which lab value must be assessed?**
- A. Sodium**
  - B. Creatinine**
  - C. Calcium**
  - D. Chloride**



## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What antibiotic would likely be included for managing right lower extremity cellulitis?**

- A. Pradaxa
- B. Keflex**
- C. Paxil
- D. Phenergan

Keflex, which is a brand name for cephalexin, is the antibiotic that would typically be included for managing right lower extremity cellulitis. Cellulitis is a common bacterial skin infection that often occurs in the lower limbs and is frequently caused by streptococcal and staphylococcal bacteria. Cephalexin is effective against these organisms and falls under the category of first-generation cephalosporins, which are commonly prescribed for uncomplicated skin infections, including cellulitis, due to their efficacy and safety profile. Other medications listed are not appropriate for treating cellulitis. Pradaxa, an anticoagulant, is used for preventing blood clots and does not have antibacterial properties. Paxil is an antidepressant and does not play a role in managing infections. Phenergan is an antihistamine primarily used for nausea and allergies, and it does not address the underlying bacterial infection. Thus, the selection of Keflex represents an important choice in the management of skin infections like cellulitis, highlighting its role in healing and reducing the risk of complications.

**2. In the example of the female patient presenting with abdominal pain, what was the location of her pain?**

- A. LUQ
- B. RUQ
- C. LLQ
- D. RLQ**

The correct response indicating that the location of the patient's abdominal pain was in the right lower quadrant (RLQ) is consistent with common presentations of certain abdominal conditions. Pain in the RLQ is often associated with conditions such as appendicitis, which is one of the most significant causes of acute abdomen in this area. In clinical practice, understanding the anatomical references of abdominal pain helps narrow down possible diagnoses. The right lower quadrant is located on the lower right side of the abdomen and encompasses organs such as the appendix, parts of the small intestine, and the right ovary in females. Recognizing that abdominal pain is often described relative to these anatomical landmarks aids in further investigation and management decisions. Therefore, pinpointing RLQ pain as the patient's presenting symptom aligns with the likelihood of certain abdominal disorders, making it a critical element in establishing a differential diagnosis.

### 3. What does a rating of 2+ for a pulse indicate?

- A. Normal**
- B. Weak**
- C. Strong**
- D. Absent**

In the context of pulse assessment, a rating of 2+ typically indicates a pulse that is normal and is easily palpable. This scoring system is used to evaluate the strength of a pulse, with various levels indicating different degrees of adequacy. A normal pulse, rated as 2+, is considered to have a good, brisk quality, reflecting reliable blood flow and a stable cardiovascular status. This rating helps clinicians quickly assess a patient's hemodynamic state and determine whether further evaluation or intervention is needed. Lower ratings such as 1+ would indicate a weak or thready pulse, while higher ratings such as 3+ would suggest a bounding pulse. An absent pulse would be rated as 0. Understanding these distinctions is crucial in clinical practice to effectively monitor and respond to a patient's circulatory health.

### 4. For the HPI of a patient with RLQ abdominal pain, how does it meet level 3 billing criteria?

- A. Includes at least two elements**
- B. Meets the five criteria for abdominal pain**
- C. Contains a clear description of the onset**
- D. Has a timeline and relevant history**

For a patient with right lower quadrant (RLQ) abdominal pain, detailing a clear description of the onset is crucial in establishing the history of present illness (HPI) within the context of level 3 billing criteria. A well-defined onset aids clinicians in understanding the nature and progression of the symptoms, which directly impacts diagnosis and treatment plans. The onset describes when the abdominal pain began, whether it was sudden, gradual, or associated with specific events or activities. This detail is vital as it helps differentiate between various potential causes of RLQ pain, such as appendicitis, kidney stones, or gastrointestinal issues. If the onset is vague or not well defined, it may lead to challenges in clinical evaluation and management. Having a clear description not only aligns with coding requirements but also supports clinical decision-making, making it integral for a comprehensive assessment that meets the standards for billing at this level.

**5. What should be the primary focus in the care of a patient with a small bowel obstruction until recovery?**

- A. Regular meals**
- B. Medications only**
- C. Close monitoring**
- D. Patient education**

In the management of a patient with a small bowel obstruction, the primary focus should be on close monitoring. This is crucial because small bowel obstructions can lead to serious complications such as ischemia, perforation, and peritonitis if not properly monitored. During this period, healthcare providers must observe the patient's vital signs, abdominal examination findings, and overall clinical status closely to assess for any signs of deterioration or the need for surgical intervention. Moreover, close monitoring helps ensure that the patient is not exhibiting worsening symptoms, such as increased pain, vomiting, or changes in bowel movements. The condition may require interventions such as decompression or surgical correction, and ongoing monitoring allows for timely decision-making based on the patient's progression towards recovery. Other options like regular meals, medications only, and patient education may play supportive roles but are not primary concerns during the acute phase of a small bowel obstruction, where the patient's safety and stability are the top priorities. Regular meals are usually not possible in the case of obstruction, while medications would likely be limited. Patient education is important but comes after stabilizing the patient's condition and ensuring close monitoring.

**6. What common skin condition can develop in bed-bound patients due to lack of position changes?**

- A. Psoriasis**
- B. Eczema**
- C. Ulcer**
- D. Dermatitis**

The skin condition that commonly develops in bed-bound patients due to a lack of position changes is an ulcer, specifically a pressure ulcer, also known as a bed sore or decubitus ulcer. This condition occurs when sustained pressure on the skin compresses blood flow to the area, leading to skin breakdown and tissue damage. In patients who are unable to move independently, for instance, those confined to a bed, certain pressure points—such as the heels, buttocks, and the back—are particularly vulnerable. Without regular repositioning, these areas can become damaged and eventually result in ulcers. Pressure ulcers are a significant concern in healthcare settings, as they can lead to complications such as infections, increased healthcare costs, and prolonged hospital stays. Preventive measures include regular repositioning to alleviate pressure, maintaining skin hygiene, and using specialized mattresses or cushions that help distribute weight more evenly.

**7. What is the primary purpose of administering TPA in a medical setting?**

- A. To dissolve blood clots**
- B. To increase heart rate**
- C. To reduce inflammation**
- D. To manage pain**

The administration of TPA, or tissue plasminogen activator, is primarily aimed at dissolving blood clots. This medication is critical in the treatment of several medical emergencies, primarily acute ischemic stroke, where a clot blocks blood flow to the brain. The timely use of TPA can help restore blood flow, minimize brain damage, and improve patient outcomes. By converting plasminogen into plasmin, TPA promotes the breakdown of fibrin, the protein that forms the structural framework of blood clots. This action is essential in rapidly addressing conditions caused by occluded blood vessels, thus reducing the risk of further complications associated with prolonged ischemia. While other treatments may focus on increasing heart rate, reducing inflammation, or managing pain, these are not the primary goals associated with TPA administration. The specificity of TPA's action on dissolving clots makes it a unique and vital tool in emergency medical settings.

**8. Which symptom is NOT typically part of a respiratory assessment?**

- A. SOB (shortness of breath)**
- B. Palpitations**
- C. Wheezing**
- D. Sputum production**

Palpitations are not typically part of a respiratory assessment as they relate more to cardiac function than respiratory function. The primary focus of a respiratory assessment is to evaluate the patient's breathing and lung function, which commonly includes symptoms such as shortness of breath (SOB), wheezing, and sputum production. Shortness of breath is a key indicator of respiratory distress and is assessed to determine the level of severity. Wheezing is a high-pitched whistling sound made while breathing, often indicating constriction of airways or obstruction, making it a vital sign during the evaluation of respiratory conditions. Sputum production refers to the expulsion of mucus from the respiratory tract, which can signify infections or other pulmonary issues. In summary, while shortness of breath, wheezing, and sputum production are critical aspects of assessing a patient's respiratory status, palpitations stem from cardiovascular issues and do not provide direct information about respiratory health.

**9. What is the main therapeutic effect of antidepressants?**

- A. Reduce seizures
- B. Reduce pain
- C. Improve mood**
- D. Control inflammation

The primary therapeutic effect of antidepressants is to improve mood. These medications are designed to alleviate symptoms of depression, which often manifest as persistent sadness, loss of interest in activities, and overall decreased emotional well-being. By enhancing the levels of certain neurotransmitters in the brain, such as serotonin, norepinephrine, and dopamine, antidepressants facilitate positive changes in mood and emotional state. While antidepressants may have ancillary effects on conditions such as pain or anxiety, their main purpose in clinical practice is to provide relief from the symptoms of depression. Understanding this core function is crucial for recognizing the role of antidepressants in mental health treatment and guiding patient management effectively.

**10. Before performing imaging studies with IV contrast due to a positive D-Dimer, which lab value must be assessed?**

- A. Sodium
- B. Creatinine**
- C. Calcium
- D. Chloride

Before performing imaging studies with intravenous (IV) contrast, it is crucial to assess the patient's creatinine level. This is because IV contrast agents can potentially cause contrast-induced nephropathy, especially in patients with pre-existing renal impairment. Elevated creatinine levels indicate compromised kidney function, which increases the risk of adverse effects when administering contrast media. Monitoring kidney function, primarily through creatinine levels, helps determine whether it is safe to proceed with imaging studies that involve IV contrast. If creatinine levels are significantly elevated, alternative imaging modalities that do not require contrast (such as non-contrast CT scans or MRI) may be considered to prevent renal complications. The other lab values listed are not directly related to the safe administration of IV contrast. Sodium, calcium, and chloride levels are important for various physiological functions and can be indicative of different medical conditions, but they do not have the same direct correlation to the risk of nephropathy from IV contrast as creatinine does. Therefore, assessing creatinine is the key step in the decision-making process for contrast-enhanced imaging.



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

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