

Swift River Medical-Surgical 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. Which intervention is related to impaired comfort for Paul Greer in his assessments?**
 - A. Medicate for pain**
 - B. Teach the patient**
 - C. Document findings**
 - D. Reinforce education**
- 2. In Scenario #3 involving Paul Greer, what is emphasized regarding therapeutic relationships?**
 - A. Document all interactions**
 - B. Provide diversional activities**
 - C. Assess vital signs**
 - D. Notify family members**
- 3. Which potential need was identified for Trey Johnson after treatment?**
 - A. Increased psychological needs**
 - B. Decreased nutritional requirements**
 - C. Stable mobility**
 - D. Reduced sensory stimulation**
- 4. What should the nurse do when managing a patient who is grieving?**
 - A. Discourage emotional expression**
 - B. Provide emotional support**
 - C. Minimize family involvement**
 - D. Prioritize physical needs only**
- 5. What should a nurse do if a patient does not understand discharge instructions?**
 - A. Assume they will figure it out**
 - B. Reassess their understanding**
 - C. Provide written instructions only**
 - D. Dismiss the concerns**

6. What is a significant risk factor for Trey Johnson's post-treatment condition?

- A. Nausea**
- B. Increased hydration**
- C. Improved physical stamina**
- D. Enhanced cognitive function**

7. What is the nursing priority when dealing with a patient at risk for infection?

- A. Provide comfort measures only**
- B. Implement universal precautions**
- C. Avoid patient education**
- D. Document any minor changes only**

8. Which action is appropriate for a nurse to take when assessing a patient's family support system?

- A. Reassure the patient**
- B. Teach the patient**
- C. Assess family support system**
- D. Ask the patient about pain management**

9. In Scenario #5 for Ronald Burgandy, what should be done immediately after an issue occurs?

- A. Notify the charge nurse**
- B. Call security**
- C. File a complaint**
- D. Complete incident report**

10. Which of the following scenarios includes an education component for the patient?

- A. Assessing pain levels**
- B. Inspecting cast site**
- C. Starting secondary IV**
- D. Contacting power of attorney**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which intervention is related to impaired comfort for Paul Greer in his assessments?

- A. Medicate for pain**
- B. Teach the patient**
- C. Document findings**
- D. Reinforce education**

Medicating for pain is a fundamental intervention directly related to addressing impaired comfort for a patient like Paul Greer. When patients experience discomfort, particularly in the form of pain, providing appropriate medication can help alleviate their suffering and improve their overall comfort levels. This intervention prioritizes the immediate need to manage pain, which is often a critical indicator of a patient's comfort and wellbeing. Effective pain management not only contributes to physical comfort but can also enhance psychological comfort by reducing anxiety and distress associated with pain. This approach reflects a holistic understanding of patient care that recognizes pain as a significant aspect of a patient's overall experience in a medical setting. Addressing pain through medication can lead to more favorable health outcomes and a better quality of life during recovery or treatment.

2. In Scenario #3 involving Paul Greer, what is emphasized regarding therapeutic relationships?

- A. Document all interactions**
- B. Provide diversional activities**
- C. Assess vital signs**
- D. Notify family members**

In the context of therapeutic relationships, providing diversional activities is emphasized as it plays a crucial role in patient engagement and emotional well-being. Diversional activities help to distract patients from their distress, promote interaction, and enhance their coping mechanisms during treatment. Such activities can include art therapy, games, or other engaging tasks that allow patients to express themselves and relieve tension. Focusing on therapeutic relationships means building trust and rapport with patients, which can be facilitated through meaningful interactions that divert attention from their ailments and create a more supportive environment. By incorporating diversional activities into care, healthcare providers can foster positive engagement, enhance the overall patient experience, and improve mental and emotional health outcomes.

3. Which potential need was identified for Trey Johnson after treatment?

- A. Increased psychological needs**
- B. Decreased nutritional requirements**
- C. Stable mobility**
- D. Reduced sensory stimulation**

Identifying increased psychological needs as a potential need for Trey Johnson after treatment suggests a recognition of the mental and emotional impact that illness or medical treatment can have on a patient. Medical procedures and the associated stress can lead to feelings of anxiety, depression, or fear about recovery and future health outcomes. Addressing these psychological needs is crucial because they can significantly affect a patient's overall recovery and adherence to treatment plans. In the context of post-treatment care, understanding that a patient may require additional psychological support highlights the importance of holistic care practices that extend beyond physical health. This can include counseling, support groups, or referral to mental health services, which can foster coping strategies and resilience. The other choices do not align with typical concerns following treatment. For instance, decreased nutritional requirements might not reflect the reality of recovery, as many patients may actually need increased nutrition to support healing. Stable mobility is often not a given after treatment and may require ongoing rehabilitation, while reduced sensory stimulation could apply in specific contexts but does not universally pertain to the aftermath of treatment. Therefore, recognizing increased psychological needs is essential in ensuring comprehensive patient care and promoting a supportive environment for healing.

4. What should the nurse do when managing a patient who is grieving?

- A. Discourage emotional expression**
- B. Provide emotional support**
- C. Minimize family involvement**
- D. Prioritize physical needs only**

Providing emotional support is essential when managing a patient who is grieving. Grief is a complex emotional response to loss, and individuals undergoing this process often need understanding, compassion, and validation of their feelings. By offering emotional support, the nurse can create a safe environment where the patient feels comfortable expressing their grief, which is an important part of the healing process. The nurse can facilitate conversations about the patient's feelings and memories, helping them navigate through their emotions. This support can take various forms, such as active listening, acknowledging the patient's feelings, and providing reassurance. Furthermore, emotional support may involve connecting the patient with counseling services or support groups, which can be invaluable in helping them cope with their loss. Addressing emotional aspects alongside physical care provides a holistic approach to patient management, ensuring that the patient's comprehensive needs are met during a challenging time.

5. What should a nurse do if a patient does not understand discharge instructions?

- A. Assume they will figure it out**
- B. Reassess their understanding**
- C. Provide written instructions only**
- D. Dismiss the concerns**

When a patient does not understand discharge instructions, it is essential for the nurse to reassess their understanding. This step is crucial because it allows the nurse to identify which specific parts of the instructions are unclear to the patient. By doing so, the nurse can clarify any misconceptions, provide further explanations, and address any questions the patient may have. Effective communication is vital in ensuring that patients are well-informed and can adhere to their discharge plans, ultimately supporting their health and recovery. Reassessing the patient's understanding also helps to foster a trusting relationship, where the patient feels comfortable voicing their concerns. This interaction can significantly enhance the patient's confidence in managing their health post-discharge. Therefore, actively engaging with the patient and confirming their comprehension is the best approach in a healthcare setting to ensure safe and effective continuity of care.

6. What is a significant risk factor for Trey Johnson's post-treatment condition?

- A. Nausea**
- B. Increased hydration**
- C. Improved physical stamina**
- D. Enhanced cognitive function**

Nausea is a significant risk factor for Trey Johnson's post-treatment condition because it can be a common side effect of many medical treatments, especially chemotherapy or other similar interventions. Nausea can lead to complications such as dehydration, malnutrition, and can affect the patient's overall recovery and rehabilitation process. Since it can impact a person's ability to eat and drink appropriately, nausea can exacerbate underlying health issues or lead to new complications, making monitoring and management crucial in a post-treatment care plan. In contrast, increased hydration, improved physical stamina, and enhanced cognitive function are generally positive outcomes related to treatment and recovery. These aspects suggest a better overall health status and would not be considered risk factors in the context of post-treatment complications.

7. What is the nursing priority when dealing with a patient at risk for infection?

- A. Provide comfort measures only**
- B. Implement universal precautions**
- C. Avoid patient education**
- D. Document any minor changes only**

The priority nursing action when dealing with a patient at risk for infection is to implement universal precautions. Universal precautions are a set of guidelines designed to prevent the transmission of infections. They encompass practices such as hand hygiene, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), safe handling of needles and sharps, and proper disinfection of surfaces and equipment. By following universal precautions, healthcare providers minimize the risk of spreading infections between patients and staff. This approach is essential because it addresses the primary concern of protecting both the patient who is at risk and the broader community within the healthcare setting. Proper implementation of these precautions significantly reduces the chance of healthcare-associated infections, which can have serious implications for patient outcomes. Focusing on comfort measures alone would not directly address the infection risk, and avoiding patient education could lead to a lack of understanding about necessary precautions that the patient can take. Additionally, only documenting minor changes without a comprehensive assessment and action plan would not provide adequate care to a patient at risk of infection. Implementing universal precautions, on the other hand, safeguards health and is a fundamental component of providing effective nursing care in this scenario.

8. Which action is appropriate for a nurse to take when assessing a patient's family support system?

- A. Reassure the patient**
- B. Teach the patient**
- C. Assess family support system**
- D. Ask the patient about pain management**

Assessing the family support system is a critical component of patient care, as it provides valuable insight into the emotional and practical resources available to the patient. Understanding the dynamics of a patient's family can help to determine their psychological well-being, coping mechanisms, and overall support during treatment. A solid support system can lead to better health outcomes, as family members often play an essential role in a patient's recovery process. By directly assessing the family support system, the nurse can identify the strengths and weaknesses in the patient's social network, which can influence care planning. This action can involve discussing family members' involvement in the patient's care, their availability for support, and how they contribute to the patient's adherence to medical advice or treatment plans. Gathering this information allows the nurse to encourage effective communication and collaboration among the patient, family, and healthcare team, ultimately leading to a more comprehensive approach to the patient's health. Reassuring the patient or teaching them may be valuable in certain contexts but does not directly address the assessment of their family support, which is the core of this question. Similarly, asking about pain management is important for comprehensive care but is unrelated to evaluating the support system that may be crucial for the patient's emotional and physical well-being.

9. In Scenario #5 for Ronald Burgandy, what should be done immediately after an issue occurs?

- A. Notify the charge nurse**
- B. Call security**
- C. File a complaint**
- D. Complete incident report**

Notifying the charge nurse immediately after an issue occurs is critical because the charge nurse plays a key role in managing patient safety and ensuring a swift response to any unexpected events or complications. The charge nurse can coordinate the appropriate interventions, gather additional staff if needed, and implement measures to mitigate any potential risks to other patients or staff. This action also ensures that the situation is addressed promptly and appropriately, which is vital for maintaining a safe healthcare environment. An immediate notification to the charge nurse helps facilitate further actions that may be necessary depending on the nature of the incident, such as calling security if there is a safety risk, or initiating further assessments or medical interventions. This step is foundational in emergency management protocols and is essential in prioritizing patient and staff welfare during unforeseen circumstances.

10. Which of the following scenarios includes an education component for the patient?

- A. Assessing pain levels**
- B. Inspecting cast site**
- C. Starting secondary IV**
- D. Contacting power of attorney**

The scenario that includes an education component for the patient is one that involves a direct interaction aimed at enhancing the patient's understanding of their treatment or condition. In this case, starting a secondary intravenous (IV) line typically requires informing and guiding the patient through the process. It's essential to explain why the secondary IV is needed, how it will help their treatment, and any sensations they might experience during the process. This communication fosters patient engagement and helps reduce anxiety, making it an educational interaction. In comparison, assessing pain levels primarily focuses on gathering information rather than educating the patient. Inspecting a cast site is a procedure that does not inherently involve patient education; it is more about monitoring healing. Contacting a power of attorney usually involves administrative or legal matters rather than direct patient education. Therefore, the act of starting a secondary IV stands out as the scenario that actively engages the patient in their care through education.

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://swiftrivermedsurg.examzify.com>

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

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