

Swift River Virtual Clinicals 2.0 - Emergency Department (ED) 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

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1. What level of acuity is assigned to Kathy Adams?

- A. Acuity 1**
- B. Acuity 3**
- C. Acuity 2**
- D. Acuity 5**

2. What is the acute care level of Dominic Joseph?

- A. Acuity 1**
- B. Acuity 2**
- C. Acuity 3**
- D. Acuity 5**

3. In the case of a 42-year-old client with purulent nasal drainage and facial pain, what is the likely acuity level?

- A. Acuity 1**
- B. Acuity 2**
- C. Acuity 3**
- D. Acuity 5**

4. What is the reason for Roy Powell's visit to the ED?

- A. He has severe abdominal pain after a fall.**
- B. A steel beam fell on him, pinning him across the chest.**
- C. He has third-degree burns on his legs.**
- D. He reports gastrointestinal distress after eating.**

5. What symptom is present in the 66-year-old client experiencing nausea and vomiting?

- A. Dizziness**
- B. Fever**
- C. Abdominal pain**
- D. Fatigue**

6. What is the appropriate acuity level for a client experiencing acute left lower abdominal pain and significant vital sign abnormalities?

- A. Acuity 1**
- B. Acuity 2**
- C. Acuity 3**
- D. Acuity 4**

7. What is the approximate acuity level of Tanya Kennedy's case?

- A. 2**
- B. 3**
- C. 4**
- D. 5**

8. What is a key consideration for a 56-year-old client with diarrhea who is experiencing poor skin turgor?

- A. Fluid resuscitation**
- B. Imaging studies**
- C. Surgical intervention**
- D. Antibiotic treatment**

9. Which assessment is necessary for the 5-year-old client with a dog bite?

- A. Lab tests for infection**
- B. Sutures for the wound**
- C. Pain assessment**
- D. X-ray to rule out fractures**

10. Who is assigned an acuity level of 4 and is a non-trauma case?

- A. Kathryn Torres**
- B. Ruth Huskey**
- C. Rebecca Foster**
- D. Peter Stewart**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What level of acuity is assigned to Kathy Adams?

- A. Acuity 1
- B. Acuity 3**
- C. Acuity 2
- D. Acuity 5

In determining the level of acuity assigned to a patient such as Kathy Adams, it is essential to assess the severity and urgency of her medical condition. Acuity levels are typically categorized on a scale, where a lower number indicates a higher level of urgency and higher acuity. Acuity level 3 generally refers to patients who may have non-life-threatening conditions but are still in need of medical attention and evaluation within a reasonable timeframe. These patients often present with symptoms that require intervention but do not pose an immediate risk to life, thus allowing for some stability in treatment timing. Given the complexity of emergency medicine, the designation of acuity level 3 for Kathy suggests that her situation is moderate—requiring timely evaluation and likely intervention, but not as urgent as levels 1 or 2, which would indicate critical or potentially life-threatening issues. This understanding enables healthcare professionals to prioritize care effectively in a busy emergency department, ensuring that those with more severe conditions receive prompt attention. In contrast, the other acuity levels reflect either more critical conditions, which require immediate attention, or lesser urgent situations that can wait for longer, which helps clarify why acuity level 3 is the most suitable classification for Kathy.

2. What is the acute care level of Dominic Joseph?

- A. Acuity 1
- B. Acuity 2**
- C. Acuity 3
- D. Acuity 5

Dominic Joseph's acute care level being classified as Acuity 2 indicates that he requires a moderate level of care, typically involving more frequent monitoring and intervention compared to lower acuity levels. Acuity 2 is often associated with conditions that have the potential to worsen but are not immediately life-threatening, allowing for a proactive approach to treatment and observation. This classification is essential because it helps healthcare providers develop an appropriate plan of care tailored to the patient's needs, ensuring that they receive the right level of monitoring, interventions, and resources. In an emergency department setting, understanding the patient's acuity level assists in prioritizing care and resources effectively, ensuring that those with higher acuity receive timely attention while still managing stable patients appropriately.

3. In the case of a 42-year-old client with purulent nasal drainage and facial pain, what is the likely acuity level?

- A. Acuity 1**
- B. Acuity 2**
- C. Acuity 3**
- D. Acuity 5**

The acuity level in this scenario reflects the urgency and severity of the client's condition based on the symptoms presented. A 42-year-old client exhibiting purulent nasal drainage and facial pain is likely experiencing an issue related to sinusitis or a similar infection. In the emergency department acuity scale, acuity levels are categorized from 1 to 5, with 1 being the most critical (or life-threatening) conditions and 5 being the least urgent. An acuity level of 5 indicates a non-urgent condition that can be addressed with less immediacy. The client's symptoms, while uncomfortable and requiring treatment, do not suggest a life-threatening situation, which aligns with this acuity classification. Emergency department protocols prioritize the treatment of more severe or life-threatening conditions first, so a client presenting with the described symptoms would typically be classified as low acuity. The other acuity levels represent higher degrees of urgency. For instance, an acuity of 1 would indicate a critical situation, such as respiratory failure, while 2 often involves severe pain or potential for significant deterioration that needs fast intervention. Acuity 3 can encompass moderate severity conditions, and while facial pain and purulent drainage may cause discomfort, they do not usually necessitate immediate

4. What is the reason for Roy Powell's visit to the ED?

- A. He has severe abdominal pain after a fall.**
- B. A steel beam fell on him, pinning him across the chest.**
- C. He has third-degree burns on his legs.**
- D. He reports gastrointestinal distress after eating.**

Roy Powell's visit to the emergency department is due to the serious and life-threatening nature of his condition after being pinned across the chest by a steel beam. This situation poses significant risks for internal injuries, respiratory distress, and potential compromise to vital organs and the circulatory system. Such trauma typically requires immediate evaluation and intervention to address any internal damage and to stabilize the patient. The other scenarios, while they present legitimate concerns, do not reflect the same level of immediate danger. Severe abdominal pain after a fall could indicate an injury but doesn't inherently present the same level of urgency as crushing chest trauma. Third-degree burns on the legs would necessitate treatment, but unless they are extensive or cover large areas, they may not pose an immediate life threat as chest injuries can. Lastly, gastrointestinal distress is generally less critical and often managed on an outpatient basis unless other more severe symptoms are present.

5. What symptom is present in the 66-year-old client experiencing nausea and vomiting?

- A. Dizziness**
- B. Fever**
- C. Abdominal pain**
- D. Fatigue**

The presence of fever in a 66-year-old client experiencing nausea and vomiting could indicate an underlying infection or inflammatory process. Nausea and vomiting are common symptoms that can accompany various medical conditions, including infections like gastroenteritis, urinary tract infections, or pneumonia. In older adults, fever sometimes presents differently than in younger individuals, and it may be an essential sign that helps identify more severe clinical issues that require immediate attention. In this context, while dizziness, abdominal pain, and fatigue are also potential symptoms concurrent with nausea and vomiting, a fever highlights the possibility of a more serious condition that could warrant further investigation and intervention. Addressing fever as a symptom can lead to a treatment plan targeting the root cause of the client's distress.

6. What is the appropriate acuity level for a client experiencing acute left lower abdominal pain and significant vital sign abnormalities?

- A. Acuity 1**
- B. Acuity 2**
- C. Acuity 3**
- D. Acuity 4**

The appropriate acuity level for a client experiencing acute left lower abdominal pain along with significant vital sign abnormalities is indicative of a potentially life-threatening condition that requires immediate medical attention. Acuity level 1 corresponds to a situation where there are imminent threats to life or function, which aligns with the presence of severe symptoms such as acute pain and vital sign instability. These vital sign abnormalities signal the risk of a serious underlying issue, such as an acute abdominal emergency, which might include conditions like perforated viscera, ectopic pregnancy, or serious vascular events. This level of acuity means that the patient should be prioritized for immediate evaluation and intervention in the emergency department. In contrast, other acuity levels (such as levels 2, 3, or 4) correspond to less urgent situations where the patient may not be facing immediate threats to life or require rapid intervention. Therefore, in the context of acute abdominal pain combined with significant vital sign abnormalities, the classification as acuity level 1 ensures that the patient receives the urgent care necessary to address potential critical health concerns.

7. What is the approximate acuity level of Tanya Kennedy's case?

- A. 2**
- B. 3**
- C. 4**
- D. 5**

When assessing the acuity level of a case in the emergency department, healthcare providers often utilize a triage system to categorize patients based on the severity of their condition and the urgency of treatment required. An acuity level of 4 typically indicates a situation that is less urgent and represents stable patients who have minor problems that require assessment and management. In Tanya Kennedy's case, if the acuity level is determined to be 4, this suggests that her condition is not immediately life-threatening, but she still requires evaluation and possibly treatment. This level often includes issues such as mild illnesses, minor injuries, or conditions that do not require immediate interventions, allowing for a more efficient allocation of resources in an emergency setting. This understanding of acuity levels helps prioritize patient care, ensuring that those with more severe conditions are treated first, while still appropriately addressing the needs of patients whose situations are less critical.

8. What is a key consideration for a 56-year-old client with diarrhea who is experiencing poor skin turgor?

- A. Fluid resuscitation**
- B. Imaging studies**
- C. Surgical intervention**
- D. Antibiotic treatment**

Fluid resuscitation is a critical consideration for a 56-year-old client experiencing diarrhea and poor skin turgor. Diarrhea can lead to significant fluid loss, which in turn can cause dehydration. Poor skin turgor is a common indicator of dehydration, reflecting the loss of fluid balance in the body. To restore hydration and stabilize the client, fluid resuscitation should be prioritized. This often involves the administration of intravenous fluids, which can effectively replenish lost fluids and electrolytes, hence improving skin turgor and overall patient status. While imaging studies, surgical interventions, and antibiotic treatments may be relevant in other clinical scenarios, they do not address the immediate and pressing issue of dehydration resulting from diarrhea. Thus, fluid resuscitation is essential in managing this patient's condition effectively and ensuring their safety and recovery.

9. Which assessment is necessary for the 5-year-old client with a dog bite?

- A. Lab tests for infection**
- B. Sutures for the wound**
- C. Pain assessment**
- D. X-ray to rule out fractures**

In the case of a dog bite in a 5-year-old client, performing sutures for the wound is a necessary assessment primarily because of the risk of infection, the potential for tissue damage, and the need for proper healing of the injury. Dog bites can result in lacerations that may require closure to facilitate healing and prevent complications such as infection or excessive scarring. Although other assessments such as pain evaluation and infection lab tests are important, the immediate need for suturing addresses the integrity of the wound itself, ensuring it is managed correctly. Assessing the pain level will guide treatment and comfort, while lab tests may be relevant later if signs of infection develop. However, the direct intervention of suturing is pivotal to the management plan for a dog bite, prioritizing wound care and preventing future complications. Moreover, while an X-ray could be considered if there's suspicion of a fracture, the more urgent concern in this scenario is the management of the wound from the dog bite itself.

10. Who is assigned an acuity level of 4 and is a non-trauma case?

- A. Kathryn Torres**
- B. Ruth Huskey**
- C. Rebecca Foster**
- D. Peter Stewart**

An acuity level of 4 is typically associated with non-urgent conditions that require medical attention but are not life-threatening. This categorization is essential in emergency department settings to prioritize patients based on the severity of their conditions. In this case, the individual assigned to acuity level 4, Rebecca Foster, likely presents with symptoms or issues that are stable and can wait without significant risk of deterioration. This might involve situations like minor infections, mild dehydration, or other similar presentations that, while needing care, do not pose an immediate threat to life or limb. Understanding the importance of acuity levels helps ensure that patients with more severe conditions receive timely care, while those with less urgent needs are managed appropriately without overwhelming the emergency department resources. In contrast, the other individuals mentioned may present with either higher acuity levels indicating more urgent or trauma cases or reflect characteristics that do not fit the definition of acuity level 4 cases.

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://swiftriver2ed.examzify.com>

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

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